

A Teacher's Guide to **Homesteading in Wyoming** (Grades 3-8) Guided Tour Experience



Buffalo Bill Historical Center
720 Sheridan Avenue
Cody, WY 82414

Tour Description

Discover the challenges that homesteaders faced as they settled Wyoming's Big Horn Basin between the late 1800s and the mid 1900s. The tour includes an interactive homesteading activity.

Objectives

- To describe the environment and physical features of the land that homesteaders found in the Big Horn Basin in Wyoming just after the turn of the 19th century.
- To explain the requirements the government place on homesteaders so that they could keep the land settled.

Suggested Activities To Do Before Your Tour

- Discuss your upcoming trip to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Have your class brainstorm a list of rules to follow while at the museum.
- Discuss the Homestead Act of 1862.
- Discuss the difference between settling as a result of the Homestead Act and settling as part of the Oregon Trail experience.
- Discuss the following vocabulary words:

homestead

adobe

claim

environment

climate

irrigation

Suggested Activities To Do After Your Tour

- Borrow the video, *Homesteading: 70 Years on the Great Plains* (5th-8th) from the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Watch and discuss the film with your students.
- Have the students imagine they are traveling back in time to the Big Horn Basin of 1900. They plan to settle there with their families. How would they go about settling the land? Who would do what? Write a story about their experiences.
- Research a homesteading family from their area. Have the students share their findings and discuss the different reasons people homesteaded the area.