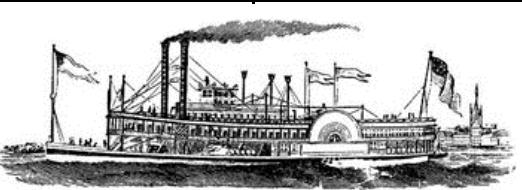


## Daily Schedule for Book 4: River of Peril



\*Indicates an optional activity found in the Goldtown Adventures lapbook.  
(Lapbook activities can be skipped or purchased at [www.GoldtownAdventures.com](http://www.GoldtownAdventures.com))

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
<i>River of Peril</i>	Chapters 1-2	Chapters 3-4	-----	-----
Literature Guide	Page 89 #1-7	Page 89 #8-14	* Lapbook activity for chapters 1-3 (+ cover)	Pages 90-92
	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
<i>River of Peril</i>	-----	Chapters 5-6	-----	Chapters 7-8
Literature Guide	Pages 93-94	Page 95 #1-5	* Lapbook activity for chapters 4-6	-----
	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12
<i>River of Peril</i>	Chapter 9	-----	-----	-----
Literature Guide	Page 95 #6-15	* Lapbook activity for chapters 7-9	Pages 96-97	Pages 99-100
	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15	Day 16
<i>River of Peril</i>	Chapters 10-11	Chapters 12-13	-----	Chapter 14
Literature Guide	Page 101 #1-4	-----	* Lapbook activity for chapters 10-12	Page 101 #5-11
	Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20
<i>River of Peril</i>	-----	-----	Chapters 15-16	-----
Literature Guide	Pages 102-107 Cut out booklets.	Pages 102-107 Fill out booklets.	Page 109 #1-5	* 1st lapbook activity for chapters 13-15
	Day 21	Day 22	Day 23	Day 24
<i>River of Peril</i>	-----	Chapters 17-18	-----	-----
Literature Guide	* 2nd lapbook activity for chapters 13-15	Page 109 #6-15	* Lapbook activity for chapters 16-18	Pages 110-111
	Day 25	Day 26	Day 27	Day 28
<i>River of Peril</i>	Historical Note	-----		
Literature Guide	Pages 112-113	* Lapbook activity for historical note		

## River of Peril: Chapters 1–4

Show how well you understand the story by answering the questions.

### Chapters 1-2

1. What are Jem and his family doing when the story opens? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Everyone but Jem is excited to be headed for Sacramento. Why isn't Jem excited?
  - A. He just found a new place to pan for gold and wants to stay home.
  - B. He senses something is not quite right with his father's plans for the trip.
  - C. He learns Will Sterling is going along.
  
3. What brings the stagecoach to a jarring halt? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. True or false (circle one)? The highwaymen rob Jem of his gold.  
A. No one was shot.    B. Mr. Watson, the assayer    C. Walt, the stagecoach driver
  
5. Who is the only person shot and injured during the holdup?
  - A. No one was shot.    B. Mr. Watson, the assayer    C. Walt, the stagecoach driver
  
6. Jem doesn't know the robbers' names, but he observes them. What does Jem call the leader of the gang? \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. What do the highwaymen call themselves? The K \_\_\_\_\_ of the G \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapters 3-4

8. The War Between the States is also known as the Civil War. *River of Peril* is set smack during the middle of this conflict between the North and the South. On which side are the bandits? North (the Union) • South (the Confederates)
  
9. On which side are the Coulters? North (the Union) • South (the Confederates)
  
10. Why doesn't Jem think very much about the war? \_\_\_\_\_
  
11. Where has Pa hidden the real gold? \_\_\_\_\_
  
12. The gold Pa is taking to Sacramento is worth eighty-five thousand dollars. Write this amount as a numeral (with a dollar sign): \_\_\_\_\_
  
13. Why is Pa taking the Midas mine's gold to Sacramento?
  - A. to load it on a steamboat to ship it back East to help the Union (North) in the war
  - B. to load it on a steamboat to ship to the South (Confederates) for the war
  - C. to keep it safe from Southern sympathizers
  
14. Which steamboat is not at the docks when they arrive? \_\_\_\_\_

## River of Peril Vocabulary: Chapters 1-4

Match the underlined words with their meanings. Page numbers are given where the word is first used.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. an <u>assayer</u> (p.11) | A. a canopy or sunshade  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. <u>rear boot</u> (p.12)  | B. sorry; repentant  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. a <u>sidearm</u> (p.17)  | C. ridiculous; silly   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. <u>apologetic</u> (p.19) | D. someone who analyzes ore to determine the quality and quantity of the metal (gold in this case) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. <u>legitimate</u> (p.19) | E. detailed; elegant; ornate   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. <u>absurd</u> (p.20)     | F. an outside storage compartment at the back of the stagecoach                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. an <u>awning</u> (p.28)  | G. a weapon like a pistol or knife carried in a belt   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. <u>elaborate</u> (p.35)  | H. lawful; legal; rightful   |

## Figures of Speech

The 1800s were full of figures of speech like “You’re in a heap of trouble!” The characters in the Goldtown books use many expressions you might not hear today.

Write the letter for the meaning of each underlined figure of speech.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> F Jem knew Pa was <u>all in a tangle</u> about something.       | A. found a rich vein of gold or silver          |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Why was Pa <u>riding shotgun</u> up with Walt?                  | B. be careful how you talk                      |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Her face scrunched up in a <u>mind-your-tongue</u> expression.  | C. weak or frail; not feeling well              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> “We’ll be <u>out of your hair</u> in no time.”                  | D. moving very fast                             |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> The Midas mine <u>hit a bonanza</u> in the new tunnels.         | E. to ride as an armed guard with the driver    |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> “Don’t let the Express office know that I <u>keeled over</u> .” | F. to be involved in something that worries you |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> They came after them <u>like a prairie fire</u> .               | G. to no longer annoy someone; to be gone       |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> The poor man was looking <u>mighty puny</u> .                   | H. to fall down in a faint                      |
| 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Jem was <u>all fired up</u> about the trip to Sacramento.       | I. eager and excited                            |

## Stagecoach Travel in 1864

The stagecoach was the main means of transportation for Jem and his family in 1864. There were well-established routes, along roads that crisscrossed the country. Like a train or bus today, the stagecoaches left at certain times, picked up passengers along the way, and carried mail (and other valuable cargo, like the strongbox). Way stations provided fresh horses so the coach could continue without a delay. Passengers could eat a bite at these “rest stops,” as well. If they got off, however, they might miss the stage and be stranded for days until the next stagecoach stopped by.

Stagecoaches were crowded. Passengers sometimes had to ride with baggage on their laps and mail pouches beneath their feet. On rough roads, passengers bounced against the seat, the roof, and the sides of the coach. In the mountains, passengers would have to get out to lighten the load or sometimes even help push the stage uphill or across deep mud.

Many dangers faced stagecoach travelers. Robberies were commonplace. Cash for payrolls, as well as bank transfers, regularly went by stagecoach. Gold carried down from the mines was very tempting for highwaymen. And the bandits were hard to catch. There was also the danger of Indian attacks in the southwestern states like Arizona and New Mexico. In a list of “things to bring” on a stagecoach trip, “rifle, pistol, and knife” were standard suggestions. Wells Fargo posted these rules for passengers. (The list has been shortened for easier reading):

- If you must drink, share your bottle.
- If ladies are present, do not smoke.
- Gentlemen must refrain from using rough language.
- If you hog the buffalo robes provided for your comfort, you'll ride with the driver.
- Do not use your fellow passenger's shoulder for a pillow.
- Do not shoot animals for pleasure. The sound may frighten the horses.
- Forbidden topics of conversation: robberies and Indian uprisings.
- In the event of runaway horses, remain calm. Leaping from the coach puts you in danger from injury, hostile Indians, or hungry coyotes. And it's a long walk back.



**Web Fun:** Copy this link into your browser to see authentic stagecoach travel  
(two and a half minutes):

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=enceV930ATQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enceV930ATQ)

## River of Peril: Stagecoach Routes in 1864

The map below shows the stagecoach routes in California during the 1850s and 1860s. The small circles are towns and cities. The lines are the roads the stage followed. Do these things:

1. Color the star BLUE for Sacramento, the capital of California.
2. Draw a line under Goldtown, the Coulters' hometown.
3. Use a red colored pencil to follow the most likely route Jem's family took from Goldtown to Sacramento.

4. Name the towns along the way if the stagecoach takes the valley route to Sacramento.

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---

5. Name the towns along the way if the stagecoach takes the foothills route to Sacramento.

---

---

6. Which do you think is the better route?

valley route • foothills route

7. Why do you think this is the best route?

---

---

8. Which city is directly south of Sacramento?

---

9. Use the scale of miles to figure out the distance between Goldtown and Sacramento.

---



## The North and the South

Jem and Ellie are growing up during the Civil War (The War Between the States). They learn about the war in school, but they are not affected by it very much. Their cousin, Nathan, however, has been greatly affected. His father, Frederick Tyson, was a captain in the Union (Northern) army. He was killed in the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, which is the reason Aunt Rose and Nathan took a ship around Cape Horn and came to live with the Coulters in California. During the war, California voted to be a Union state.

Most people think the Civil War was all about freeing the slaves in the South. That was an important part, but it was much more complicated. The southern states did not believe the federal government should be able to tell them how to run their own states. "States' rights" was more of an issue than slavery. They decided to leave the United States and become their own country. President Lincoln pretty much said, "No way!"

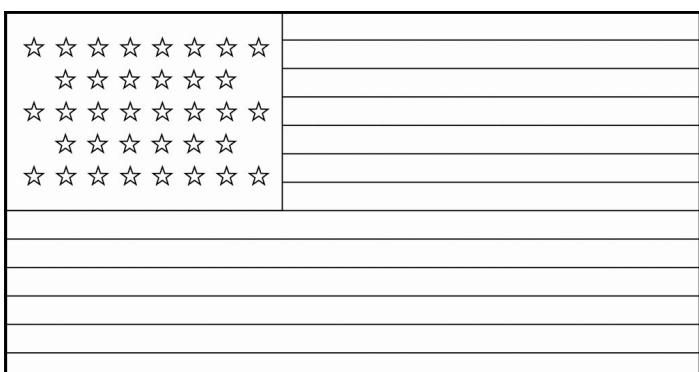
Everybody thought the war would end quickly. After all, the United States (the Union) had lots of factories and thousands of soldiers. However, the Confederacy (the South) had excellent leaders and won most of the battles the first year or so. The war dragged on for four *long* years and became the bloodiest war in American history.

The turning point of the war came during the hard-fought, fateful, three-day Battle of Gettysburg. The South, under an excellent general (and Christian man), Robert E. Lee, suffered a bad loss. Things never quite went their way after that. General Lee surrendered to General Grant (the Union general) a year and a half later in April 1865.

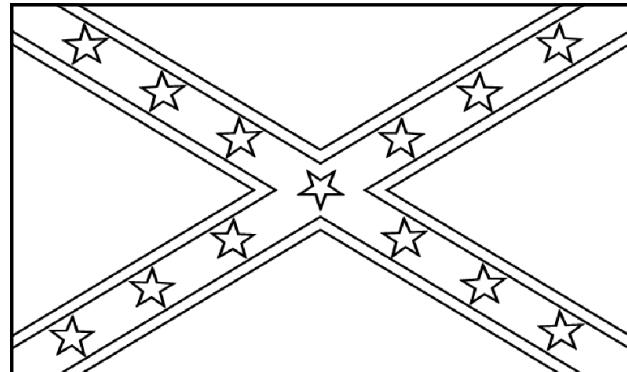
**Web Fun:** Watch a 5-minute video that explains the Civil War in a fun way for kids:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsGnSHjf8zc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsGnSHjf8zc)

The North and the South had their own flags. Use the Internet to see what colors they should be. Then color the flags of the Union (U.S. flag) and the Confederacy (their battle flag) the correct colors. The U.S. flag shown below is the flag from 1865, when there were only thirty-six stars, one for each state.



flag of the United States of America



flag of the Confederate States of America

## Gold Bars and Strongboxes (Calculator Activity)



Gold was taken from the mines and refined. This involved heating the gold up in its final stage and pouring the liquid metal into molds, creating bars or "ingots" for easier shipping. Each gold bar was about 7 inches long, 3 and 5/8 inches wide, and 1 and 3/4 inches thick. To get one idea of this size, look at the picture to the left. The man is holding a replica of a gold brick.

Another idea is to find a "two-by-four" (a piece of lumber) and ask an adult to cut it 7 inches long. One gold bar weighed 27 and 1/2 pounds. To understand how heavy that little brick was, try lifting a 25-pound sack of flour. Or try lifting 3 gallons of milk (24 pounds). Gold is very dense. A lot of weight is packed into one small gold brick.



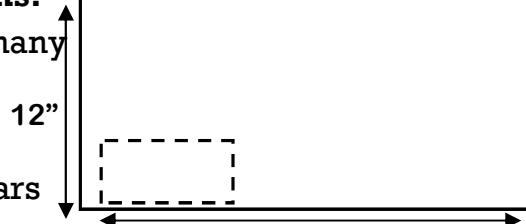
A standard Wells Fargo strongbox was a rectangular prism (see drawing below). It was 24 inches long, 12 inches high, and 12 inches deep. Let's see how many gold bars can fit into a Wells Fargo strongbox, and how much it would weigh (rough estimates).

**Follow the directions step by step to solve the problems:**

Wells Fargo strongbox from the top

1. If each gold bar is about 4" wide and 7" long, how many bars can fit in the bottom of the box? \_\_\_\_\_

Draw the rectangular bars in the strongbox.

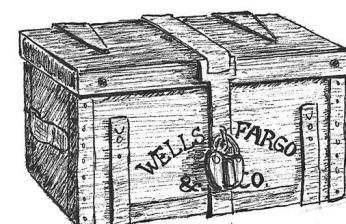


2. If a gold bar is about 2" thick, how many layers of bars can fit in the strongbox? \_\_\_\_\_ (The box is 12" high.)

3. Multiply the number of bars in the bottom layer \_\_\_\_\_ x the number of layers \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ gold bars in the strongbox.

4. If each gold bar weighs about 28 pounds, how much does the box full of gold weigh? \_\_\_\_\_ bars x 28 pounds each = \_\_\_\_\_ total pounds.

5. Do you think people packed a strongbox as full as we just did? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_



6. In reality, a strongbox might carry only a dozen (12) bars.

How much would *this* load weigh? 12 bars x weight of 1 bar \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ total pounds.

(Two or three men could carry a strongbox that weighed this amount.)

7. If there are 16 ounces in a pound, and gold was worth \$16 an ounce in 1864, how much was the load worth? 16 oz. x \_\_\_\_\_ (weight from #6) x \$16 = \_\_\_\_\_

(This is about what the gold in the story is worth. They divided this between 2 boxes.)

8. Gold is now worth \$1,200 an ounce. How much would the gold in this story be worth today? 16 oz. x \_\_\_\_\_ (weight from #6) x \$1,200 = \_\_\_\_\_

## River of Peril: Chapters 5–9

Show how well you understand the story by answering the questions.

### Chapters 5–6

1. When Jem wakes up, he discovers his father is long gone. Where did Pa go?
  - A. to the docks, to check on the arrival of the *New World*
  - B. to the Express office, to make sure the gold shipment is still secure
  - C. to Folsom, to check out the railroad
2. Whom does Aunt Rose put in charge for the trip to the waterfront? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Chapter 6 is titled “Wharf Rats.” What are wharf rats?
  - A. rough, no-good men who cause trouble on the docks
  - B. an especially dangerous species of rats
  - C. beggars who are looking for handouts
4. When the cousins hear a shriek of terror, who runs to the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What language does the boy who is being beaten speak? \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapters 7–9

6. A double eagle is a gold coin worth how much? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Circle the gold rush slang: flying downriver • making your pile  
seeing the elephant • shooting the breeze • striking it rich • kicking the bucket
8. What city in the South is Henri originally from? \_\_\_\_\_
9. True or false? Mr. Peasley is one of Henri’s best friends aboard the ship.
10. Henri has \_\_\_\_\_ sisters.
11. “There are more ways to board the *Duchess* than by using the gangplank,” Henri says. How does he take the kids aboard? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Black Boots is startled and gasps when he recognizes \_\_\_\_\_.
13. True or false? After talking to Captain Belrose, Jem decides he wants a reward for rescuing Henri.
14. What is Black Boots’s real name? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What does Black Boots want to do?
  - A. kick the kids off the ship before they hear more
  - B. keep the kids in hopes of using them to get the gold
  - C. get a group together to rob the Express office

## River of Peril Vocabulary Chapters 5-9

Match the underlined words with their meanings. Page numbers are given where the word is first used.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. a <u>ruckus</u> (p.40)                 | A. enthusiasm; gusto                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. having <u>zest</u> for life (p.41)     | B. to move at a high and uncontrolled speed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. the <u>riffraff</u> on the dock (p.43) | C. to keep someone under tight control      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. a <u>parasol</u> (p.46)                | D. not respectful persons; troublemakers    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. a <u>levee</u> (p.47)                  | E. a smokestack                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. a <u>flue</u> (p.47)                   | F. a raised dirt embankment along the river |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. to <u>barrel</u> (p.50)                | G. a commotion; disturbance; uproar         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. to <u>keep on a short leash</u> (p.60) | H. an umbrella; a sunshade                  |



## Character Clues

Read the clues. Guess the character's name. Use the word box for help.

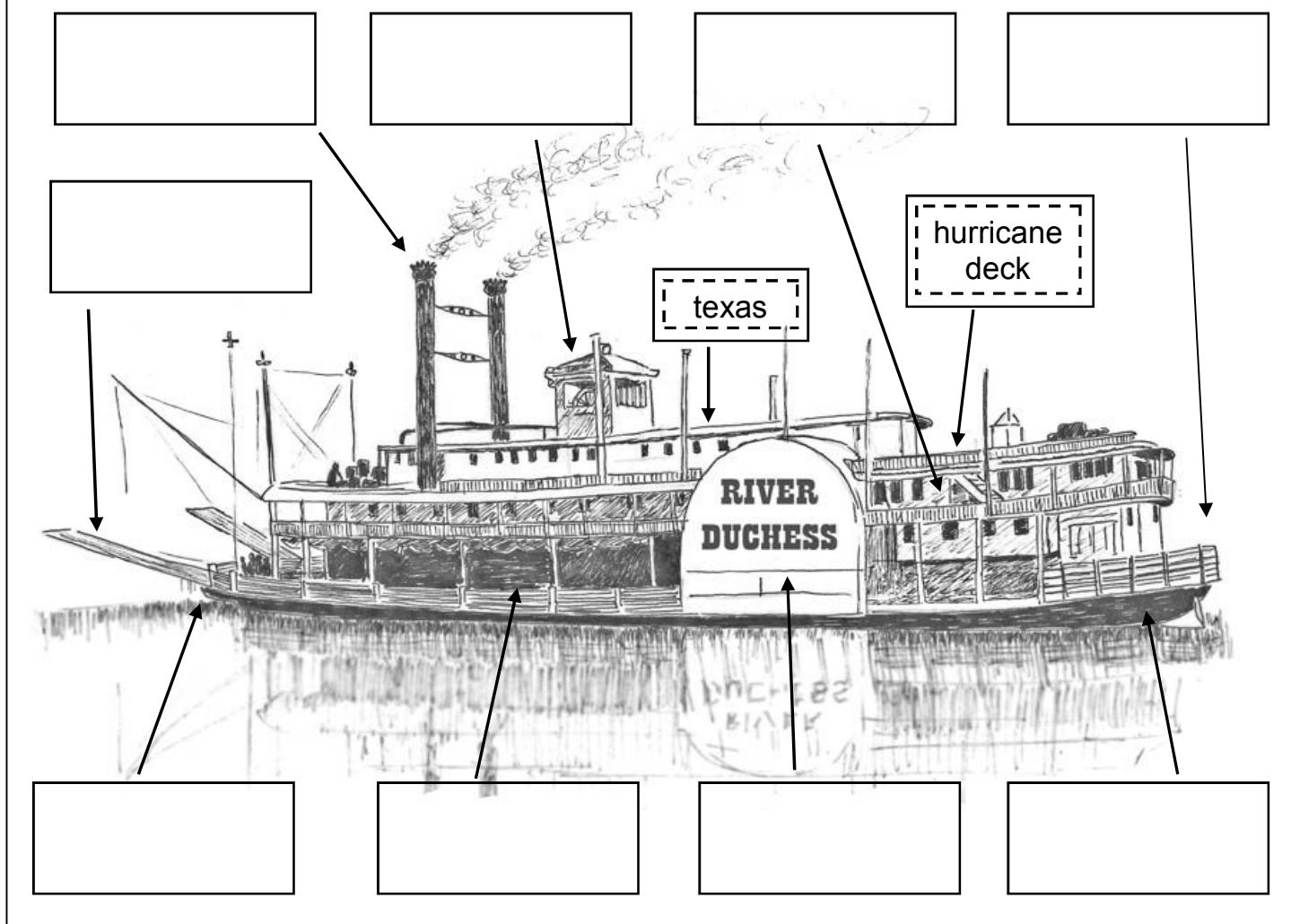
Black Boots • Ellie • Henri • Mr. Sterling • Engineer Kelly • Mr. Peasley

1. If it wasn't for my new friend, Jem, I would have been beaten and left for dead on the docks, thanks to three rough boys. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I wanted to see a steamboat so much that I was in a hurry. I jumped on board but slipped and nearly got dunked in the river. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I hired Sheriff Coulter to be my agent and make sure the Union gold is safely loaded aboard a steamboat for San Francisco. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The captain trusts me to run things aboard the *River Duchess*. The crew doesn't like me much, but I don't get paid to be nice. \_\_\_\_\_
5. To my everlasting surprise, I stumbled across the kids from the stagecoach holdup the day before. Maybe I can get the gold after all. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Henri likes to spend time with me on board the *River Duchess*. I've taught him all kinds of interesting things about boilers. \_\_\_\_\_

## Welcome Aboard the River Duchess

Jem can't wait to see the *River Duchess*. He and Ellie have never been aboard any kind of sailing vessel or steamer. Once aboard, the kids are introduced to terms they have never heard before—words that specifically relate to directions and places aboard a paddle-wheel steamboat. Reread pages 64-67 in the book to become familiar with the steamboat as Henri gives the kids a tour.

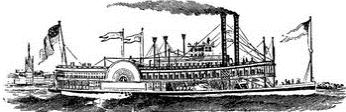
**Directions:** Cut out the steamboat terms below and glue them into the correct places to label the *River Duchess*. Two places the kids explored but are not named in the book are the “texas” and the “hurricane deck.” They have been labeled for you.



CUTTING LINE

pilothouse	boiler deck	bow	paddlewheel housing	stern
cargo hold	smokestacks (flues)	gangplank (up when traveling)	main (cargo) deck	





## A Steamboat's Decks

Henri gave Jem, Ellie, and Nathan a thorough tour of his father's ship, the *River Duchess*. Not only did he show the cousins the decks, he told them what they might find on each deck. Review pages 64-67 and pages 72-73 in the book. Then in the boxes below, write what you would see on the various decks. Use the word box for help.

Staterooms (passenger cabins) are found in two places aboard the ship.

cargo hatch	staterooms (2)	ship's wheel	maps & charts	boilers
washrooms	firewood	officers' quarters	dining room	pantry
crew quarters	bar	gangplank	Henri's cabin	cargo

### Cargo Deck

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### Pilothouse

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### Boiler Deck

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### Texas

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## A Steamboat's Crew

It took a lot of people to keep a steamboat running smoothly. Some steamboats were small, with a crew of between fifteen and thirty men. Others, like the *River Duchess*, were much larger, with a full crew of **officers**, **cabin crew**, and **deckhands**.

### Officers

1. At the top of the heap was the ship's **MASTER**, or owner. In many cases, the captain was also the master and owner. Henri's father is an example of this. A ship's master may own one boat or a fleet of boats.
2. The **CAPTAIN** ran the ship. His word was law. He was responsible for everything that went on aboard his ship.
3. Two **PILOTS** took turns steering the steamboat from up top in the pilothouse. They kept the ship safe from snags, sand bars, low water, and other river dangers.
4. The captain used a speaking tube to communicate with the **ENGINEER** on duty in the boiler room. He also used bells to signal "stop" or "reverse."
5. The **FIRST MATE** made sure the captain's orders were followed. He also directed the deck crew in the handling of the ship's cargo.
6. The ship's **CLERK** was in charge of the manifest (records). He checked off each piece of cargo as it was loaded and unloaded.

### Cabin Crew

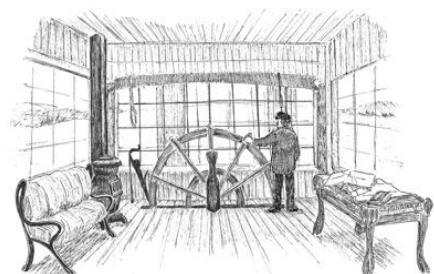
The cabin crew looked more like hotel staff than ship employees. The **STEWARD** was in charge of the **COOKS**, **WAITERS**, **CABIN BOYS**, and **CHAMBERMAIDS**. They fixed the meals, waited on passengers in the dining room (saloon), did the dishes, ran errands, and washed and ironed the cabin passengers' clothes.

### Deck Crew

**DECKHANDS** did all of the grunt work aboard the steamboat: loaded and unloaded cargo, stoked the firebox full, manned the pumps, and anything else the officers told them to do. Many were young, and some were from rough walks of life or foreigners.

Name the Crewman: Name the people in the story who work these jobs.

1. Captain (page 56): \_\_\_\_\_
2. Cabin boy (page 65): \_\_\_\_\_
3. First mate (page 62): \_\_\_\_\_
4. Engineer (page 65): \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ship's clerk (page 62): \_\_\_\_\_



## River of Peril: Chapters 10–14

Show how well you understand the story by answering the questions.

### Chapters 10-11

1. Jem is desperate to not let Black Boots find him. Where does he finally hide?  
A. in Henri's cabin    B. in a storeroom    C. in the pantry
2. Who catches Jem when he's ready to slip down the steps and escape? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What secret is Captain Belrose *probably* keeping from Henri?  
A. that he is a Knight of the Golden Circle  
B. that he has something to do with Ellie's disappearance  
C. that he is smuggling gold downriver on the *River Duchess*
4. Circle the places where people think Ellie might be. Cross out the places you know she cannot be:  
● at the fairgrounds   ● in Goldtown   ● at the hotel   ● in a warehouse  
● aboard the steamboat *New World*   ● on the *River Duchess*   ● in the river

### Chapters 12-14

5. True or false? The police sergeant is not happy about searching the boat.
6. Who does Jem see crossing the busy street that evening? \_\_\_\_\_
7. The ransom note is unclear on purpose. Jem figured out what it means. Can you?
  - A. We have something *you* want (who is it?): \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. You have something *we* want (what is it?): \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Bring the “goods” (what?): \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. Wait for the boat (what boat?): \_\_\_\_\_
8. When Jem leaves the hotel that evening, he plans to . . .
  - A. go right to the *River Duchess* and rescue Ellie.
  - B. go back to the police and plead with them to search the wharf.
  - C. meet his father at the railroad depot and tell him everything that has happened.
9. Jem trades his \_\_\_\_\_ for a set of clothes as a disguise.
10. Jem hopes to rescue Ellie and jump off the ship before it departs. Instead, he is caught and put to work doing what? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What does Jem hear just after the *River Duchess* gets underway?
  - A. a steamboat's whistle
  - B. a train's whistle
  - C. the paddlewheel sloshing

## River of Peril Vocabulary Chapters 10-14

Circle the word or group of words that means the same as the underlined word.

1. "You, Marcus, search fore. I'll go aft. He can't get far."  
A. toward the bow of the boat (the front) B. toward the stern of the boat (the back)
2. Clay headed fore, but the rest of the crew ran aft to look for Jem.  
A. toward the bow of the boat (the front) B. toward the stern of the boat (the back)
3. Those road agents looked mighty determined to get Goldtown's gold.  
A. policemen B. Wells Fargo agents C. bandits D. visitors
4. Gawkers, rescuers, and a hoard of survivors crammed the wharf.  
A. injured people B. bystanders staring C. gossipy people D. cheering folks
5. If the first mate saw Jem, he would scream "stowaway" and take him to the captain.  
A. a paying passenger B. a lazy crew member C. a sneaky, unpaying passenger
6. The adrenaline that had carried Jem over the edge and into hiding drained away.  
A. energy B. ropes C. injuries D. rhythm
7. Ellie skedaddled when she learned who was boss of the kitchen.  
A. hopped up and down B. giggled C. cried D. ran away quickly
8. To anyone else, the note's message was vague.  
A. clear B. unclear C. scary D. mysterious

## Figures of Speech

Below are more figures of speech. Match each expression with its meaning.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ It was all just a tempest in a teapot, Jem decided.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The sergeant assigned a dozen men to comb the city.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Aunt Rose's eyes flashed daggers at Jem and Nathan.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Jem knew better than to skirt around the truth.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ "Shake a leg!" the man yelled.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ "Your father is in cahoots with those road agents!"

- |  |
|--|
| A. to try to figure out how to get away with not telling the whole truth |
| B. to work secretly with someone   |
| C. to search all over the place for someone or something                 |
| D. to hurry up; move faster  |
| E. nothing important enough to worry about                               |
| F. to look angrily at someone  |



## Dime Novels

*"I suppose being robbed at gunpoint would make any boy's mind think like a dime novel rather than that of a sensible young man."*

~ Chapter 11

There were no movies, TVs, or the Internet in 1864, when Jem, Nathan, and Ellie lived. Most people lived simple lives, working hard at their jobs. There was very little free time. However, in 1860, the Beadle brothers published a small paper book called *Maleaska, the Indian Wife of the White Hunter*. It was an immediate hit, selling over 65,000 copies in the first few months! The Beadles named their cheap paperbacks "dime novels," and they cost ten cents each. Their series included 312 books. Soon, other publishers were getting in on these hot sellers. And no wonder. What little boy (or grown-up) would not want to read a book titled *The Fighting Trapper: Kit Carson to the Rescue* or *Ralph, the Slasher*?



The 1800s dime novels were a lot like today's paperback novels, comic books, and TV episodes all rolled up together into outlandish, far-fetched tales of heroes, adventure, and danger. (It sounds a little like *Star Wars*, doesn't it?) Instead of outer space, dime novel heroes fought Indians and pirates, found gold, and battled stagecoach robbers. Readers could escape from their hard lives and go on an imaginary adventure for ten cents.

Everybody liked to read dime novels—from poor young boys to cowboys to presidents like Abraham Lincoln. Well, almost everybody. Teachers, preachers, and some parents did not like dime novels. They thought the fanciful fiction put pictures into a young person's mind that should not be there. Like today, there were probably some dime novels best left unread. However, the majority of them were good, clean fun and cheap entertainment for thousands of people.

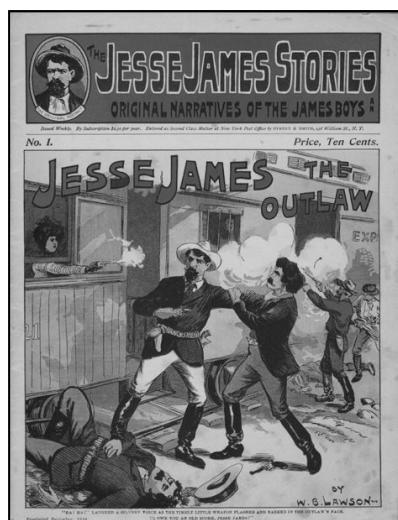
The competition to sell dime novels was fierce, so publishers had to come up with new ideas to get people to buy their books. Color covers (first introduced in 1874 to replace the original orange-colored covers) were a hit. Later, the price was dropped to a nickel ("half-dime novels") so the books would be easier for children to buy.

Dime novels never lost their popularity. They turned into the paperback novels of the 20th century and the e-books of today. Jem would have no trouble recognizing them. Trouble is, those adventure stories don't cost ten cents any longer.

## Create a Dime Novel: Example Covers & Titles

If you think writing a dime novel was a lot of work, it wasn't. The authors threw down whatever came to mind . . . and the more outrageous the better. Here is your chance to be a dime-novel author. Take a look at the sample titles and covers from real 1800s dime novels below. You may 1) choose one of these titles for your dime novel or 2) make up your own title.

Here are some dime-novel titles: *Buckskin Sam, the Scalp Taker*; *The Blue Anchor*; *King of the Swordsmen*; *A Trip to the Center of the Earth*; *The Doomed Hunter*; *Night Train*; *The Gold-Dragon (the California Bloodhound)*; *The Forest Spy*; *The Mountain Den*; *Jesse James' Oath*; *King of the Wild West Cattle War*; *Gold Plume, the Boy Bandit*; *Duel in the Dark*; *The Captives of the Frontier*; *The Death Rangers*; *Kit Carson, Crack Shot of the West*; *The Pistol Prince*; *The Pirates of Peaceful Pocket*; *Custer's Last Shot*



## Create a Dime Novel

**Day One:** Cut out the booklets on this page and the next and staple together. Design your cover (on the right), using the 1800s “look” of the examples on the previous page. Many covers were colored, so use colored pencils.

**Choose one of these options:**

1. Use one of the titles from the previous page for your own story.
2. Make up a title for your story.

**Day Two:** The blank pages are for notes for your mini dime novel. Later, you may want to create a full adventure dime-novel story on the computer or in a notebook. To get started, however, you first need to decide on the five elements you need for *any* adventure story:

- 1- **characters** (a hero or heroine, some supporting characters, and bad guys.)
- 2- a **setting** (where and when)
- 3- a **story problem** (something the main character has to figure out and solve)
- 4- a **plot** (events that happen in the story as the main character is solving the problem)
- 5- a **solution** (how the story ends; did the character solve his or her problem?)

### My Characters

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# Create a Dime Novel

Here are the rest of the blank pages to create the five story elements for your dime novel.

## The Setting

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## The Story Problem

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## The Solution

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## The Plot Events

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## River of Peril: Chapters 15–18

Show how well you understand the story by answering the questions.

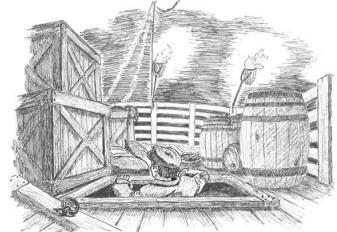
### Chapters 15-16

1. Jem blends in very well with the (circle one): deck passengers • cabin passengers.

2. Why does Jem blend in so well? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Henri convinces Jem to find the cabin boy, Silas. Why?

- A. Silas might know where Ellie is.
- B. Silas can help Jem hide if the crew looks for him.
- C. Silas is a good eavesdropper and can learn where Ellie is.



4. True or false? Silas thinks Ellie is a runaway.

5. What does Jem find in the hiding place Silas shows them? \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapters 17-18

6. When the men spy Jem and Ellie, how does Jem distract them to buy time?

- A. He and Ellie split up.
- B. He tells them they should check their gold shipment.
- C. He and Ellie jump overboard.

7. Which part of the *River Duchess* explodes?

the pilothouse • the boiler • the paddlewheel housing • the firebox

8. Why does Jem think he is going to drown? \_\_\_\_\_

9. He prays, and something comes along that saves his life. What is it?

debris from the steamboat • Henri • a dinghy • a lifesaving ring

10. Circle the injuries Jem and Ellie receive from the accident:

broken leg • broken arm • broken nose • burned faces • cracked ribs

crushed foot • cuts and scrapes • head wounds • missing fingers

11. What is the name of the steamboat that comes to the rescue? \_\_\_\_\_

12. True or false? Silas is recaptured and taken back into slavery.

13. What is the tiny steam dinghy chugging away with? \_\_\_\_\_

14. What does Jem give Silas to help him on his way? \_\_\_\_\_

15. True or false? Henri's father turns out to be a man of honor, after all.



## Digging Deeper

Ever since Ellie went missing, Jem has one thought on his mind: find Ellie and take care of her. Jem's big-brother role of protecting his sister is praiseworthy. He sacrifices a lot, even giving up his life's savings of gold in order to sneak aboard the *River Duchess*. Have you ever given up something you value very much in order to sacrifice for someone in your family, or for a friend? What happened? Discuss orally and write your answer.

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### Web Fun

Carefully copy this link into your browser to watch a side-wheel steamboat dinghy (a minute and a half):

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJAY6mkxTIg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJAY6mkxTIg)

### French Lesson

Henri Belrose speaks French. From context (reading the story), can you match these French words to their English meanings?

- |                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. _____ <i>mon père</i> (p. 62)   | A. idiot           |
| 2. _____ <i>merci</i> (p. 118)     | B. yes             |
| 3. _____ <i>au revoir</i> (p. 118) | C. good for you    |
| 4. _____ <i>oui</i> (p. 53)        | D. thank you       |
| 5. _____ <i>imbécil</i> (p. 68)    | E. my father       |
| 6. _____ <i>maman</i> (p. 81)      | F. thugs; ruffians |
| 7. _____ <i>bravo</i> (p. 62)      | G. good-bye        |
| 8. _____ <i>voyous</i> (p. 53)     | H. mother          |

### More Web Fun

To hear what French sounds like, copy this web link into your browser. It is a free sample of Busy Beavers French lessons. This lesson teaches colors and simple objects:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=UR9MO5W6Drk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UR9MO5W6Drk)

## The Sacramento River in 1864

The Sacramento River is the longest river in California, nearly 400 miles long. It begins in the mountains of northern California, meets the Pit River at Lake Shasta, and continues its journey out of the mountains, through the Sacramento Valley, and on to San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. The map below shows only a small portion of the river. The city of Sacramento, the capital of California, was founded where the Sacramento and American rivers meet. Gold was discovered not many miles upstream on the American River, toward the east. During the gold rush, prospectors docked in San Francisco Bay and traveled by steamboat up the Sacramento River to Sacramento. They then traveled overland to the gold fields.

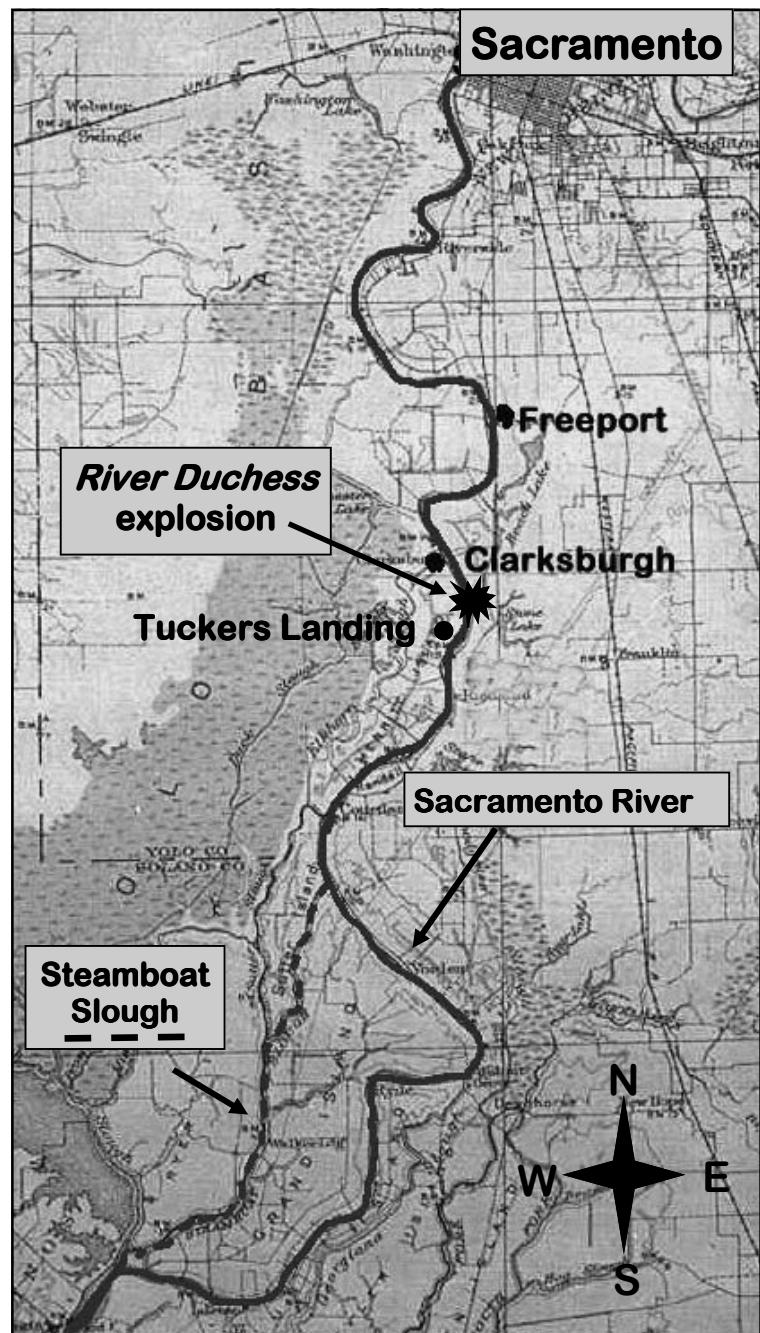
This map shows part of the route the *River Duchess* and other steamboats took from Sacramento, through the delta, and into San Francisco Bay. Steamboat Slough, the dotted line, was a shortcut. After reading chapters 15-18, answer the questions. Use the map.

1. What made Steamboat Slough a shortcut? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

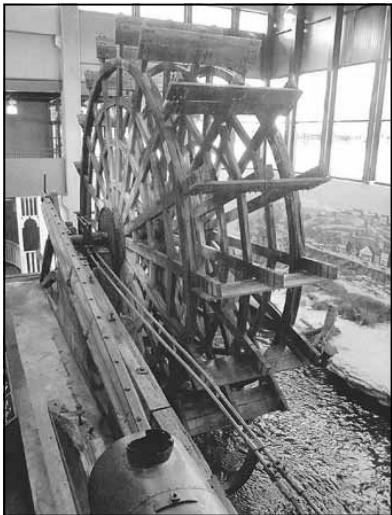
2. Between which 2 river stops did the *River Duchess* blow her boiler?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Near which city was the dinghy with the stolen gold recovered?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Steamboat Slough is (circle one)  
north • south • east • west  
of Sacramento.



## Paddle Wheels



Side-wheel paddleboats and stern-wheel (wheel at the back of the boat) boats traveled America's big rivers. Some were oceangoing vessels as well. How did the boat move? Large paddlewheels churned the water and pushed the boat forward. What moved the paddle? Steamboats used steam to move rods, which were attached to the paddlewheel, much like rods pushed the wheels on a steam train.

The paddlewheel in the video in the web fun activity below is a replica of one that belonged to the steamboat *Arabia*. The *Arabia* hit a snag and sank in 1856. No lives were lost,

but its cargo lay buried under the mud of the Missouri River until 1987, when the *Arabia* was rediscovered and salvaged. Two hundred tons of pre-Civil War artifacts are now on display at the Arabia Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. Learn more about the doomed steamboat and see pictures at [www.1856.com](http://www.1856.com).

### Web Fun

Copy this link into your browser to see the 1856 *Arabia*'s paddlewheel in action:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBxHiX7jvzs&feature=youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBxHiX7jvzs&feature=youtube)

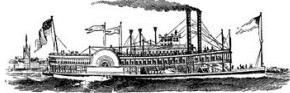
## Make a Simple Paddle-wheel Boat

To learn how a paddlewheel moves the boat, we are going to use rubber-band power, not steam power. Both use the same principle to move the boat.

### Materials:

- a Styrofoam meat tray
- 2 rubber bands that fit snuggly around the meat tray
- 2 long pencils
- a clear plastic cover from a fruit or vegetable tray (or another source of heavy plastic for the paddle)
- duct tape
- scissors
- a bathtub or small swimming pool partly filled with water

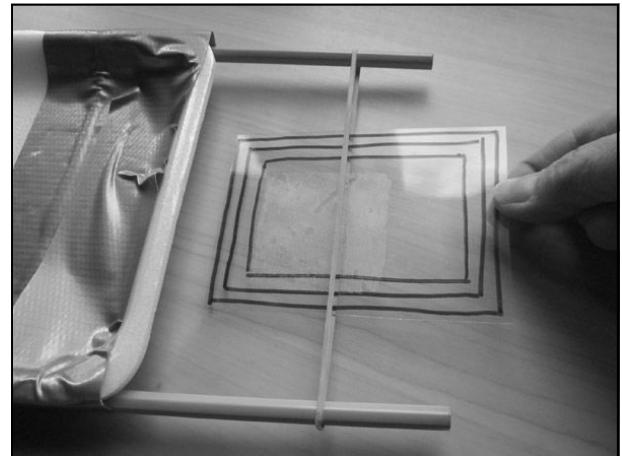




## Make a Simple Paddle-wheel Boat

### Follow These Steps:

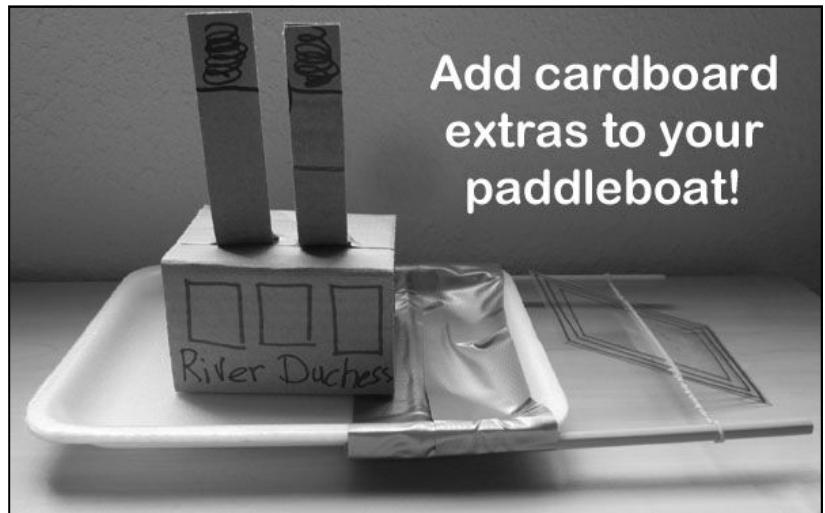
1. Turn the meat tray upside down and position a pencil along each edge. Make sure the pencils stick out about four inches past the back end of the boat (meat tray).
2. Ask someone to hold the pencils while you secure one of the rubber bands around the pencils and the meat tray. The rubber band holds the pencils in place for the next step.
3. Cut two pieces of duct tape, each about twelve inches long (depending on the width of the meat tray). Wrap the duct tape around the entire tray, securing the pencils in place. Wrap the second piece closer to the back edge to secure the pencils more.
4. Slip the other rubber band around the two pencils.
5. Cut a rectangle from the clear plastic to fit between the pencils without touching the meat tray. Decorate with a Sharpie pen if desired. (See picture below.)
6. Slip the plastic paddle into the rubber band and wind it away from the boat (so when you let go, the boat moves forward).
7. Wind tightly and set the boat in the bathtub or pool. Watch it go!
8. You can create cardboard cargo, decks, and flues (smokestacks) for your paddleboat too.
9. Make more boats and have races.



Slip the paddle into the rubber band.



Finished paddle boat



Add cardboard extras to your paddleboat!

# ANSWER KEY: RIVER OF PERIL - 1

## Page 89: Chapters 1-4

### Chapters 1-2

1. taking the stage to Sacramento
2. B
3. a holdup
4. false
5. C
6. Black Boots
7. Knights of the Golden Circle

### Chapters 3-4

8. South
9. North
10. It is so far away.
11. under the seats
12. \$85,000
13. A
14. *New World*

## Page 90: Chapters 1-4

### Vocabulary

1. D
2. F
3. G
4. B
5. H
6. C
7. A
8. E

### Figures of Speech

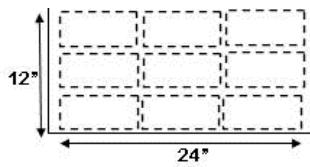
- |      |      |
|------|------|
| 1. F | 6. H |
| 2. E | 7. D |
| 3. B | 8. C |
| 4. G | 9. I |
| 5. A |      |

## Page 92: Stagecoach Routes of 1864

1. and 2. Check student's map work.
3. The MOST LIKELY route should start at Goldtown and go through Mariposa. Then turn west into the valley and go up through Stockton, ending in Sacramento.
4. Mariposa and Stockton
5. Mariposa, Coulterville, Columbia, Jackson
6. valley route
7. The valley route is smoother and they can make better time. The foothills route is hilly and full of curves, a more difficult route. It would take longer and be more uncomfortable.
8. Stockton
9. about 150 miles

## Page 94: Gold Bars and Strongboxes

1. 9 (see picture)
2. 6
3.  $9 \times 6 = 54$  bars



4.  $54 \times 28 = 1,512$  pounds
5. NO. Nobody could lift the strongbox if it was that heavy.
6.  $12 \text{ bars} \times 28 = 336$  pounds
7.  $16 \text{ oz.} \times 336 \text{ pounds} \times \$16 = \$86,016$
8.  $16 \text{ oz.} \times 336 \text{ pounds} \times \$1,200 = \$6,451,200$

## Page 95: Chapters 5-9

### Chapters 5-6

1. C
2. Nathan
3. A
4. Jem
5. French

### Chapters 7-9

6. \$20 (twenty dollars)
7. making your pile; striking it rich; seeing the elephant
8. New Orleans
9. false
11. by jumping from the dock onto the stern (back) of the boat
12. Ellie
13. false
14. Clay
15. B

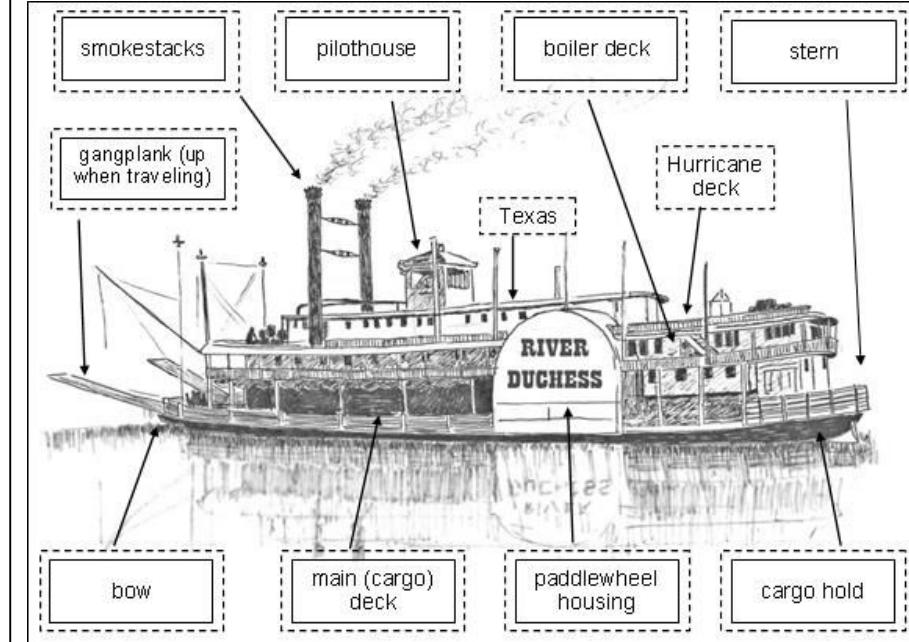
## Page 96: Chapters 5-9 Vocabulary

1. G
2. A
3. D
4. H
5. F
6. E
7. B
8. C

### Character Clues

1. Henri
2. Ellie
3. Mr. Sterling
4. Mr. Peasley
5. Black Boots
6. Engineer Kelly

## Page 97: The River Duchess



## **ANSWER KEY: RIVER OF PERIL - 2**

### **Page 99: A Steamboat's Decks**

#### **Cargo Deck**

cargo hatch  
crew quarters  
firewood  
gangplank  
boilers  
cargo

#### **Boiler Deck**

washrooms  
staterooms  
bar  
dining room  
pantry

#### **Texas**

staterooms  
officers' quarters  
Henri's cabin

#### **Pilothouse**

ship's wheel  
maps & charts

### **Page 100: A Steamboat's Crew**

1. Anton Belrose
2. Silas
3. Mr. Peasley
4. Mr. Kelly
5. Mr. Benz

### **Page 101: Chapters 10-14**

#### **Chapters 10-11**

1. B
2. Henri
3. C
4. at the fairgrounds; at the hotel; in a warehouse; on the *River Duchess*

#### **Chapters 12-14**

5. true
6. Silas (or cabin boy)
7. A. Ellie B. gold C. gold D. *River Duchess*
8. C
9. gold
10. loading cargo (or stowing cargo)
11. B

### **Page 102: Chapters 10-14**

#### **Vocabulary**

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. D
8. B

#### **Figures of Speech**

1. E
2. C
3. F
4. A
5. D
6. B

### **Page 109: Chapters 15-18**

#### **Chapters 15-16**

1. deck passengers
2. He is dressed raggedy like them.
3. A
4. true
5. gold—strongboxes

#### **Chapters 17-18**

6. B
7. boiler
8. He can't swim.
9. debris from the steamboat
10. broken arm; broken nose; cracked ribs; cuts and scrapes; head wounds
11. *Yosemite*
12. false
13. gold
14. the rest of his leftover gold
15. true

### **Page 110: French Lesson**

1. E
2. D
3. G
4. B
5. A
6. H
7. C
8. F

### **Page 111: The Sacramento River in 1864**

1. The slough was straighter than the Sacramento River. It cut off the longer distance of the winding river.
2. between Clarksburgh and Tucker's Landing
3. Freeport
4. south