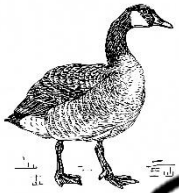


Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center Activity Guide



## Habitat Investigations:

1. Looking at the Wetlands, woodland, and prairie displays, chose the display that best represents where you live. Answer will vary.
2. What mammal do you see in the wetland? River Otter
3. Name 2 birds in the cottonwood forest.

1. Turkey, great horned owl, cardinal, flicker, Harris sparrow.

2. Blue jay, bobwhite, red-bellied woodpecker

4. What predator do you see in the prairie? Coyote

## Striking It Rich:

1. List three tools or materials used by miners what were they used for?

Tool:

Tool:

Tool:



2. How were fish affected by the "striking it rich" craze? Killed native fish and destroyed habitat by polluting clear mountain streams with silt and other sediments.

## Cutting the Tall Timber:



1. List two tools used to cut down trees. How did they work?

Tool 2:

5 possible answers

2. How do you think logging changed the lives of animals and birds, like the pileated woodpecker, on the refuge? Homes (habitat) eliminated, presence of people caused wildlife to abandon the area (relocate), increased competition, erosion in streams.

3. How has timber cutting improved our lives? Better homes, improved furniture, and other life comforts, trees are a renewable resource and provide jobs for people.

### Bustin' the Prairie Sod:

1. What is meant by "bustin' the prairie sod"?

Plowing the soil

2. How did this change the land and affect the wildlife? Changed native prairie and wetlands into

farmland, created environment unsuitable for many native species.



3. Look at the map next to this display, name 2 of 7 the states that the Missouri River flows through besides Iowa or Nebraska. Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Kansas.

(Challenge: Try to name all six)

4. Why should we be concerned if North Dakota is polluting the Missouri River?

If the water is polluted in North Dakota, it will eventually flow downriver and pollute the waters of the refuge.

### Towns- Making Nowhere Somewhere:

1. List three tools used to build up towns on the new frontier.

Tool 1: saw, tape measure,  
wood plane

Tool 2: Files, hatchet,  
hammer, auger bits

Tool 3: pocket level, folding  
ruler, and pommel brace

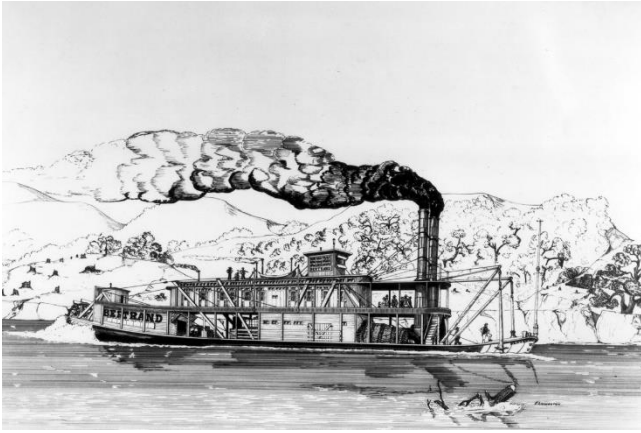
2. Name two animals that did not benefit from the growth of towns?

Animal 1:  
Bobolink, upland sandpiper,

Animal 2:  
Black footed ferret, grizzly  
bear, wolf etc.

3. Why couldn't these animals survive where towns were built? Developing these areas reduced the habitat and food supply the animals relied on. Many animals need large areas of land and cannot adapt to human presence and the loss of their habitat ranges.

## Bertrand Exhibit:



The Bertrand was a steamboat used to carry cargo and people up and down the Missouri River. This cargo supplied all of the merchandise a store in Montana would sell during an entire year. Imagine the Bertrand as a "Wal-Mart on the water".

Find three artifacts from the exhibit for each category below. Record a similarity and difference to a similar item you would find at home today.

### Household Items and Tools

Planes, files wrenches, hatchets, screwdrivers, bits plastering trowels, chisels, leather working tools. Shovels, picks, anvils, spigots, coffee grinders, griddles, waffle irons, corkscrews. Doorknobs, padlocks, keys, scales, drawer pulls, matches, pipes, ink, pencils, combs, pocket knives, cowbells, lamps(oil), and candles.

Many of these items are the same or similar today, although some are much more sophisticated. Many of today's household items are made of different materials, IE Plastic

### Food Items

Brand cocktails, (Stomach) bitters, champagne, ales wines, sardines, oysters, gooseberries, yeast, ginger, strawberries, brandied peaches, lemonade, peanuts, ketchup, mustard, lemon syrup, honey, jelly, tomatoes, pickles, peppers, pepper sauce.

Many of these items are the same or similar to those of today, although some are much more sophisticated. Methods of processing and packaging has changed

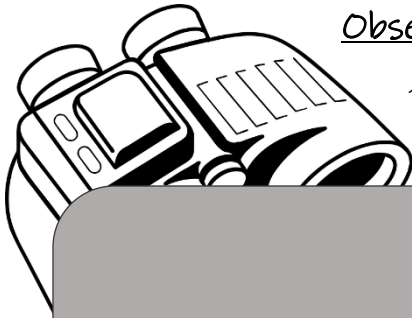
### Clothing Items

Boots, shoes, shoelaces, felt hats, furs, coats, socks, trousers, shirts, neckties, women's hats, buttons, sewing supplies, yard goods, ice skates, and blankets.

Some of these items are the same or similar. However, major changes have been made in materials used and method of construction. (Also there are major differences in the styles and attitudes towards clothing.)

If you had only one crate to bring on a steamboat trip to Montana, What would you bring?

Answers will vary.



### Observation Deck:

1. List wildlife or evidence of wildlife (tracks and nests) you notice while looking out at the refuge and DeSoto Lake.

Turtles, fish, deer, coyote, geese, ducks, and other various birds. Bird's nest, woodpecker holes, wood duck house (Box), raccoon tracks, deer tracks, coyote tracks, beaver cuttings. (Note animal depends on the time of year, weather conditions, etc.)

2. DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is land and water set aside to provide habitat for wildlife. List 5 plants or animals that you think live on the refuge.

1. Turkey, Skunk,  
Eastern  
Cottontail

2. Painted  
Turtle, Canada  
Goose

3. Butterflies,  
Carp, Catfish,  
Bats, Racoons

4. Badger, Fox,  
Beaver,  
Squirrel

5. Mice,  
Snakes, Toads,  
Frogs, Birds.

3. Looking out the windows, what changes can you see that people have made to this area? List as many as you can see. Why have they made these changes?

Roads, cars, buildings, trains, pilings in the water (historically used to stop bank erosion), wood buck box, screen around trees to deter beaver damage, channelization of the Missouri River and the formation of DeSoto lake (dikes), increased farmland, less forested area, etc.

4. What do you think this area would look like if DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge did not exist? Be specific. Answers will vary

5. Why is DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge important to you? Answers will vary

6. What things can you do to help preserve the refuge for future generations? Recycle, pick up trash, be respectful to wildlife and their habitat, teach others, ride your bike, leave things as you find them, get involved in various conservation organizations, etc.

### Post-site Activity:

Write a story, poem, song, or draw a picture, cartoon, or caricature about your experience at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge.