

Table of Contents



Introduction	3
Using This Book	4
The Stories—New Words—The Writing Link—The Questions—The Test Link—The Thrill of Social Studies	
Meeting Standards	8
Social Studies Stories	
Fishing on a Giraffe’s Back	9
Bringing Land to Water	12
A Humbug Insect	15
New Zealand Exchange Student	18
Mike Fink and the Mississippi	21
Not Enough Trees for a House	24
Where Was Ride?	27
One-Room School House	30
A Law About Spinning	33
A Muddy Joke	36
A Spelling Lesson	39
The Ojibwe and Maple Sugar	42
Guts Enough Not to Fight Back	45
Ambulance of the Seas	48
A Supreme Court Case	51
A House Without Doors	54
Pictures that Teach	57
True Stories About Coins	60
The Great Lakes	63
Great-grandpa and the Mine	66
Sitting Bull	69
Arrested for Voting	72
All About Milk	75
A Symbol of Hope	78
Saved from Rabies	81
How Canada Got Its Name	84
Cattle Drive	87
What the President Can’t Do	90
“Go for Broke”	93
Tomato Story	96
The Oregon Trail	99
The Man Who Didn’t Wear Socks	102
The Underground Railroad	105
A Store Like No Other	108
Following the Crops	111
Seward’s Icebox	114
Making Congress Fair	117
Medical Detective	120
What the Shoes Told	123
Work Parties	126
The Rockies	129
Twelve People in a Box	132
True Stories About Money	135
Fighting Fire!	138
Answer Sheets	141
Bibliography	142
Answer Key	144

A Muddy Joke



Abe had a stepmother. Abe loved his stepmother very much. Abe's stepmother used to tease Abe. She would tease him about being tall. "You'd better wash your head," she would say. "Wash your head so you don't get the ceiling dirty."

Abe's stepmother liked things to be clean. Every spring, she cleaned their cabin. She cleaned the cabin from top to bottom. She even whitewashed the ceiling. Abe looked at the whitewashed ceiling. He looked at how clean and white it was. Then, Abe had an idea. Abe thought of a way to tease his stepmother. He would surprise his stepmother with a muddy joke!



Abe went to a little boy. "Step in the mud," he told the little boy. The little boy stepped in the mud. Then, Abe picked up the boy. He carried the boy into the house. Then, Abe turned the boy upside down. Abe held the boy up high so that the boy's feet touched the ceiling. Abe held the boy up as he walked across the ceiling. Soon, a trail of muddy footprints went right across the ceiling! Abe's stepmother was surprised when she saw the trail of muddy footprints. She laughed. She liked Abe's joke.

Abe's full name was Abraham Lincoln. He was born in 1809. He was born in Kentucky. His family was poor. They lived in a little cabin. It was made of logs. It had only one room. It had only one window. It had a dirt floor.

Abe's family moved to Indiana. His mother died when he was nine. Abe's father got married again. Abe's stepmother helped Abe. Abe didn't get to go to school very often, but Abe worked hard. He borrowed books. He read them by the firelight. He studied hard. He always returned the books he borrowed. Abe worked hard all of his life. He never stopped reading. He became president. He was the 16th president of the United States.



A Muddy Joke

After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

- This story is mainly about
 - Abe and his family
 - Abe and a joke he played
 - Abe and how he became president
 - Abe and how he never stopped reading
- What does Abe's stepmother do that shows she likes Abe's muddy joke?
 - She laughed.
 - She helped Abe.
 - She was surprised.
 - She whitewashed the ceiling.
- What is not true about the cabin Abe was born in?
 - It had a big room.
 - It had a dirt floor.
 - It had only one window.
 - It was made out of logs.
- Think about how the word *top* relates to the word *bottom*. What words most relate in the same way?

top : bottom

 - cabin : logs
 - clean : muddy
 - ceiling : floor
 - feet : footprints
- What do you think helped Abe become the president most?
 - He was tall.
 - He teased his stepmother.
 - He didn't get to go to school very often.
 - He worked hard and never stopped reading.