



Davy Crockett

As a young boy, Davy Crockett loved to be outdoors. When he was 12 years old, his father hired him out to a man named Jacob Siler. Davy was to help Siler drive his cattle to Virginia. He was to return home after the cattle drive, but when they reached their destination, Siler said that Davy was to stay with him. Davy was terribly homesick and was sure there had been some misunderstanding.

One day he met someone who knew his father and offered to give him a ride home. Davy sneaked away in the middle of the night and walked seven miles through the snow to meet up with his ride.

He was glad to be home, but soon hired himself out on another cattle drive. He worked for a few years before returning home. Back at home again he worked to get his father out of debt. Eventually, he worked in exchange for reading lessons. He fell in love and married a girl named Mary Finley, but everyone called her Polly. Their wedding presents were two cows and a spinning wheel. Davy and Polly rented a farm for 25 cents a month.

Davy worked hard on the farm, but his first love was hunting and he was quite proficient at it. His dogs went along with him hunting. They were named Growler, Deathmaul, and Grim. Two boys were born to Davy and Polly. Davy moved his family around several times to move into less settled areas.

Davy joined the militia to help General Andrew Jackson fight the Indians in the War of 1812. The English had stirred up the Indians to fight against the Americans. Davy Crockett helped feed the army by hunting bears.

In 1815, Davy and Polly had a little girl. Six months later, Polly died. Davy was very lonely and it was difficult for him to manage by himself. Nearby, a widow named Elizabeth Patton lived with her two children. Elizabeth and Davy married.

Davy's fame and respect grew, and in 1812, he was elected to Tennessee's legislature. He took a common sense approach to policy making. His motto was "Be sure you're right, then go ahead."

In 1827 he was elected to Congress. Although he had always been a strong supporter of Andrew Jackson (Now President), Crockett strongly disapproved when Congress and Jackson tried to take away land they had previously given to the Indians. Gold had been found on Indian land, and settlers wanted it. Crockett fought the bill, but it was passed anyway.

After a few more years, Davy yearned to return to the wilderness. Davy went to Texas. Mexico was making motions to regain Texas. Crockett joined up with the army to help defend against the Mexican army, led by Santa Anna. Davy and his group joined up at the Alamo. They were only 150 men. They did their best and fought off Santa Anna for 12 days, but in the end all men died, including Davy. Even so, it was considered a victory for the United States, because their courage rallied the rest of the army, who cried "Remember the Alamo" and defeated Santa Anna.

Dates

1786–Born

1804–Married Mary (Polly) Finley

1815– Polly died

1821–Elected to the Tennessee legislature

1827–elected to Congress

1836– died at Alamo

Areas to Study

Alamo

Elections

Animal tracks and bear hunting

Bowie

Knife (served with Jim Bowie at the Alamo)

Coonskin hats

Tennessee

Projects

Make a Coonskin hat

Go for a walk in the woods. Listen, and look for tracks. Can you see why Davy loved the winter snow?

How many roles did Davy Crockett lead in his life? (pioneer, army scout, etc.)

What was the purpose behind the slogan, "Remember the Alamo"?

Davy Crockett demonstrated incredible courage in going to fight at the Alamo. He knew in advance that there were slim chances for survival and yet he went anyway. Consider God's instruction to Joshua that he should be courageous in Joshua 1:1-9. When do we need to be courageous?



Simon Bolivar

Much of South America in the early 1800s was controlled by Spain. Simon Bolivar was a general in South America and helped several countries become free and independent from Spain: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Peru. He is called the liberator of South America and people compared him to George Washington.

Then he helped combine the countries into the republic of Colombia and became their first president. In 1825, Upper Peru became a separate state and was named Bolivia in his honor. Later, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela separated, and he was just the leader of Colombia.

Dates

1783– Born

1830– Died

Books

Simon Bolivar, South American Liberator by Carol Greene J 923.1 B63

Bolivar the Liberator by Ronald Syme J923 B

Dauntless Liberator by P. Marschall and J. Crane

Areas to Study

Equator

Rain Forest

Andes mountains

Topography of South American

Rain cycles

Rainbows

Projects

Study the geography of South America. Learn the location of all the countries.

Make an outline map of South American and draw in the rainforest, the Amazon River, and the Andes Mountains.

Study some of the unusual animal life of the Amazon rainforest, for example: the piranha, the tapir, the arrow poison frog, or the vampire bat.

Compare the longitude of the South American rainforest with that of the African and Asian rainforests.

Visit the zoo. Which animals are from South America?

Discussion Questions

What similarities are there between George Washington and Simon Bolivar?

Why is it called a "rainforest" ?

Who sends the rain? Job 5:10; Zachariah 10:1