

NAME _____

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge's Visitor Center

Activity Sheet - Middle School

DISPLAY AREA

1. Looking at the *Wetlands, Cottonwood Forest, and Prairie*, choose a display that best represents where you live. _____
2. What mammal do you see in the Wetland? _____
3. Name 2 birds in the Cottonwood Forest? _____
4. What predator do you see in the Prairie? _____

Striking It Rich

1. List three tools or materials used by miners. What were they used for?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
2. How were fish affected by "striking it rich"? _____

Cutting the Tall Timber

1. List two tools used to cut down trees. How did they work?
 1. _____
 2. _____
2. How do you think logging changed the lives of animals and birds like the pileated woodpecker?

3. How has timber cutting improved our lives?

Bustin' the Prairie Sod

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

2. How did this change the land and affect the wildlife?

3. Look at the map next to this display, name 2 of the 6 states that the Missouri River flows through besides Nebraska or Iowa. _____

(Challenge: Try to name all 6)

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

Towns: Making Nowhere Somewhere

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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

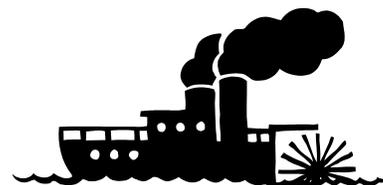
1. _____

2. _____

3. Why couldn't these animals survive where towns were built?

CARGO AREA

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 cargo for each category below. For each artifact record a similarity and difference for a similar item that you would find in your home today.

Household items and tools

Items	Similarity	Difference
1.		
2.		
3.		

Food items

Items	Similarity	Difference
1.		
2.		
3.		

Clothing items

Items	Similarity	Difference
1.		
2.		
3.		

OBSERVATION AREA



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

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. _____

2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

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?

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

5. Why is DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge important to you? _____

6. What things can you do to help preserve the refuge for future generations?

