

# TIMBERWORKS TOYS

[www.timberworkstoys.com](http://www.timberworkstoys.com)



Enhancement of your curricular goals through use of building structures

## Overview

Timberworks Toys can enhance your classroom by integrating kinesthetic learning seamlessly into your curriculum with the help of these cross-curricular lesson plans. Timberworks will help you to meet your objectives and allow for differentiated activities, while supporting the development of kinesthetic talent, visual-spatial skills, and critical thinking.

### LOG CABINS

After discussing the history of log cabins and reading thematically related children's literature, students will build their own log cabin based upon the knowledge shared. While building a log cabin, students can write instructions or tell others how to build a similar log house. Students then can measure the

different pieces to gain better understanding of comparisons - longer or shorter. The students can also count the parts used and make a graph. Then the students can paint a picture of their log cabin and write a story about it. Teachers can also take pictures of the student building projects - for student comparison including: smallest or most creative structure.

## Cross-curricular Goals

### 1. Language Arts

- Develop and apply skill and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate fiction, poetry
- Apply a writing process when composing text.
- develop and apply listening skills

### 2. Social Studies

- Knowledge of continuity and change in the history of Missouri and the United States
- Knowledge of relationships of the individual and groups to institutions and cultural traditions.

### 3. Mathematics

- Understand number, ways of representing numbers, relationships among numbers and number systems
- Understand patterns, relations and functions
- Use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships
- Understand measurable attributes of objects and the units, systems and processes of measurement
- Formulate questions that can be addressed with data and collect, organize and display relevant data to answer them.

### 4. Fine Arts

- artists communicate ideas through artworks by selecting and applying art elements and principles

## Literature

**Objective:** Students think more in-depth about the stories they read.

**Overview:** Read a story. Build a log cabin out of Timberworks Toys.

1. Read a story to the class that involves log houses such as; *The Log Cabin Quilt* by Ellen Howard or *The Big House in the Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
2. Discuss with your class how the house in the book was built.
3. Put students into groups and have them build a log cabin.
4. After they build, have students discuss any design difficulties they encountered along the way and how they were resolved.



## Social Studies

**Objective:** Students understand the different types of log cabins and other home structures in North America or other parts of the world.

**Overview:** Read some information about the types of homes constructed in different location or time periods. Then, students can remodel their log house.

1. Read some information on the history of log houses in a book such as; *A picture Book of Abraham Lincoln* by David A. Adler (or other books of choice) & discuss (on a very basic level) the typical shelter of the time / setting and why.
2. Discuss the typical long house of the Iroquois people with your students. You can go to the New York State Museum website for information on their exhibit of a typical village.
3. Create a Venn Diagram and have students compare/contrast the log cabins they build in activity one and the Iroquois long houses.

### Want more great ideas?

Go to our website at [timberworkstoys.com](http://timberworkstoys.com) to get even more info about what you can do with Timberworks Toys. Different structures, other than just a cabin, can be made from Timberworks Toys. Wheels that come with most sets give students the opportunity to build vehicles as well as buildings. The possibilities are endless. We have sets of lesson plans for several structures you can build with the toy including the bridge, wagon, and car! On our website we also have step by step videos to show you how to make the different objects in our lesson plans. You can also find a gallery of pictures of projects others have created. Please feel free to send in what your students create!

Contact us with any questions you might have at 877-LOG-TOYS or [timber-works@usa.net](mailto:timber-works@usa.net).

## Math/Science

**Objective:** Students can measure and graph.

**Overview:** Measure all the pieces and record how many of each piece was used in the groups log cabin. Graph results.

1. Take apart your log cabin and put all the like pieces together.
2. Students sort the pieces into groups of the same size or shape piece.
3. Students record how many pieces of each size are in their house. If possible, then make a bar graph of each type of piece used.
4. You could then discuss different possibilities: one house being bigger and built with fewer pieces, but the comparative size of the pieces makes the resulting house larger.

## Fine Arts

**Objective:** Students can make or follow a pattern.

**Overview:** Each student helps make a Log Cabin Quilt.

1. Use a description of the Log Cabin Quilt pattern and free coloring pages online.
2. Students make a log cabin quilt pattern.
3. Expansion activity - talk about who you "made" your quilt for and why.
4. Measurements could be taken of each of the quilt strips and blocks for a follow-up math activity.

### Resources:

Information about the log cabin quilt block and a pdf file image to use in class. <http://www.howstuffworks.com/log-cabin-quilt-block.htm>

New York State Museum <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/IroquoisVillage/>

Library of Congress classroom materials on the topic of Abraham Lincoln with many primary sources and photographs.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/lincoln/>