

Sign of the Beaver Literature Projects

<p style="text-align: center;">SAY WHAT</p> <p>As you read <i>Sign of the Beaver</i>, create a dictionary of Indian words and their meanings. Research other Indian words, too, and add them to your dictionary. Your dictionary should, of course, be alphabetized, and you might enjoy making a faux-leather cover for it, too.</p> <p>http://www.designsponge.com/2011/09/diy-project-paper-leatherbound-books.html</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CABIN IN THE WOODS</p> <p>Re-read the description of Matt's cabin in the first few chapters of the book. Then design your own "Cabin in the Woods" using items that you find around your home. What would you truly need in a home to survive?</p> <p>Consider using materials from outdoors, too, as Matt and his father would have done.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COLONIAL FIREARMS</p> <p>When Matt's father left him alone, he gave him his prized rifle. What was this type of firearm typically used for? Research colonial firearms, and design a poster with drawings and descriptions of several different kinds of guns that might have been used in Colonial Maine.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOME ALONE</p> <p>At first, Matt thought that it would be great fun to be in charge of his own schedule. If you had a whole day to yourself, what would you do? Write an hourly schedule for your day on your own, and include both your responsibilities and some fun activities, too.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FEAST YOUR EYES</p> <p>His first Indian feast was quite an eye-opener for Matt on the culture and customs of Native Americans. Pick one word that you think Matt might have used to describe this experience, and then use the following link to create an acrostic poem about what he saw, heard, smelled, and tasted at the feast. You should enter your word instead of your name when requested.</p> <p>http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/acrostic/</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE BEES KNEES</p> <p>While Matt was not very skilled with bees, there is both an art and a science to beekeeping. Research this skill, and then create an informational video for kids explaining the do's, the don'ts, and a little bit of the history of beekeeping in America. Use images from the Internet or your own artwork to help make your presentation more exciting. You might consider visiting a local beekeeper, too.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TEACH ME</p> <p>Most teachers go through years of training before they get their own students. Matt, however, is thrown into the job of educator, and he has to really use his brain! If you were suddenly given the job of teaching someone to read, how would you do it? Come up with at least five different creative ways that you could teach a kid of your own age this necessary skill.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE WORLD AROUND US</p> <p>Attean and Saknis taught Matt the Native American ways of using the world around them to meet their needs. Take a walk at a local park, and allow yourself to look at the world in a new way. Examine the natural world that you see, and write a list of as many different uses for items that you find. Be creative!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SQUAW WORK</p> <p>Attean refers to some of the jobs that Matt does around the house as "squaw work." How do you feel about some jobs being for men, and some jobs being reserved for women? Choose a friend, and hold a debate, defending your side of the "Is certain work for men or women" debate.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BIBLICAL STORYTELLING</p> <p>In addition to <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>, Matt uses stories from the Bible to help teach and interest Attean. What is your favorite Bible story? Read the following tips on storytelling, and practice telling your story again and again. Then, find an audience and share your Bible story using your new storytelling skills!</p> <p>http://www.aaronshep.com/storytelling/Tips.html</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SIGNS OF THE TIMES</p> <p>Native Americans used signs and symbols for all sorts of words, and in <i>Sign of the Beaver</i>, they chose animal names and symbols to represent their tribe. Choose ten different animals, and write each name on the back of an index card. Then, on the other side, paint a symbol to represent that animal. See if a friend can guess your symbols!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STRANGER DANGER</p> <p>When Ben arrives on his property, Matt is initially alarmed, but then he becomes more comfortable with the man. This turns into a very unfortunate situation for Matt. Create a trifold brochure for kids your age to teach them about rules for keeping themselves safe with strangers.</p>

YUM IT UP

The food that Attean's tribe shares with Matt is rich, hearty, and extremely tasty. Choose one of the following Native American recipes and try your hand at cooking one of these dishes. If you're really brave, ask a parent to help you build a fire outside and try cooking your meal authentically!

<http://www.food.com/recipes/native-american-kid-friendly>

MATT MATH

Matt makes notches on sticks to keep track of the days and weeks as they go by. Create your own method of keeping a calendar using items from nature. See if you can also find a way to make a record of important events that happen to you during the weeks that you're reading this book.

SAYING GOODBYE

When Attean's tribe moves to safer ground, Matt is once again faced with not only being alone, but also with saying goodbye to someone who he loved. What words would you use to bid farewell to Attean if you were Matt? Put your thoughts and emotions to music, and write a song to say goodbye to your dear friend.

MAKE IT YOURSELF

In the final chapter of the book, Matt busies himself making things for his home in anticipation of his family's arrival. He makes breeches, hats, bowls, trenches, and more. Use the following video to help you create your own bowl, or turn it into a trencher.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=artKpYlr1Js>