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Animals of Historic Pennsylvania

Featuring Fillmore the Raccoon, Hezekiah the Gray Fox, and Quinn the Quail

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
Fearless Fillmore Story.....	6
Fearless Fillmore Coloring Sheets.....	10
Fearless Fillmore Maze.....	12
About Raccoons Fill-In.....	13
Tracking Practice #1.....	15
Fearless Fillmore Writing Prompt.....	16
Hesitant Hezekiah Story.....	17
Hesitant Hezekiah Coloring Sheets.....	21
Hesitant Hezekiah Maze.....	23
About Gray Foxes Fill-In.....	24
Tracking Practice #2.....	26
Hesitant Hezekiah Color by Letter.....	27
Which Gray Fox Wins? Game.....	28
Quiet Quinn Story.....	30
Quiet Quinn Coloring Pages.....	33
Quiet Quinn Maze.....	35
About Quail Fill-In.....	36
Harvest the Beets.....	38
Tidy the Room.....	40
"Q" Words.....	41

Quinn and Fillmore Maze.....	42
Addition Practice with Fillmore, Hezekiah, and Quinn.....	43
Spelling Puzzlers.....	44
Draw a Picture.....	46
Help Fillmore Find Hezekiah and Quinn.....	47
Answer Key.....	48

Introduction

Growing up on the Pennsylvania frontier during the 1700s isn't easy—especially if you're a scared raccoon, a hesitant gray fox, or a quail who can't sing. Each of these three short stories is set in the time of the French and Indian War. Kids can meet three of the animals that called the Conococheague region of the Appalachian frontier of southern Pennsylvania home. The characters in the short stories also share some fun activity sheets with your younger elementary kids in this unit. To learn more about what life was like on the Conococheague frontier, I encourage you to check out the Conococheague Institute at <http://www.conococheagueinstitute.org/>. I cannot thank them enough for their hospitality and help in writing these three stories and for the pleasure of sharing them with their students.

Fillmore hurried out of the way and crossed a field—only to run right into a flock of sheep. Oh, no! He hated sheep! They were so noisy and clumsy. He just knew he would end up squeezed in between two of them like a raccoon sandwich!

He zipped across the field, narrowly dodging more than one close call. With his heart racing in his chest, he leaned back against the building he had come to.

Deep breath. Deep breath. Just breathe, Fillmore told himself. Whew! That was a long run! He was so tired, so sleepy. He dipped his head—just for a minute.

Suddenly, a sound woke him! He opened his eyes—and found himself staring straight up at the blacksmith's pick-up tongs. Those long skinny arms with jaws of death were just waiting to clutch him in their grasp!

Fillmore bolted away as fast as he could. He ran so fast he didn't even know where he was running to! He dodged this way and that. He didn't see where he was headed until it was too late.

The pig pen! All that awful, yucky mud! And, those smelly pigs, just waiting to squish him into the dirt. What was he ever going to do?

He darted from the pen, not sure where to go or what to do. He sniffed the air. Something smelled different, warm somehow. Like something was melting. Fillmore didn't know what it was, but the warmth felt nice. He followed his nose. Closer and closer. It was a big oven of some kind. But, he didn't see anyone around. Maybe it would be all right if he just warmed his paws for a minute. They were so tired and cold.

But, no sooner had he stretched a paw out in front of his face than he heard the big man.

About Raccoons

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank on the next page.

Raccoons like to _____ during the day and hunt
for _____ at night.

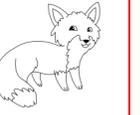
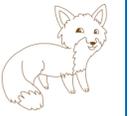
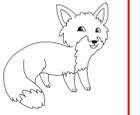
Raccoons have a black stripe that makes it look like they are wearing
a _____.

Raccoons are very good at _____
and _____.

Some of the fruits raccoons like to eat are:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Which Gray Fox Wins?

START								
START								
								
								
								
								
								FINISH
								FINISH

"Q" Words

Quinn is trying to get as much of the grain that the farmers left behind as she can. Draw a circle around each head of grain that has a word on it that starts with the letter Q.

