

ANSWER KEY
Setting – Worksheet for Lesson 1

Keywords:

Colonies-- any people or territory separated from but subject to a ruling power.

Frontier-- the land that forms the furthest extent of a country's settled regions.

Forests-- a large tract of land covered with trees

Setting --the time and place of a story

The Forest

The forest was unimaginably vast, impenetrable, mysterious and dark. His father had told him that a man could walk west for a month, walk as fast as he could, and never see the sun, so high and dense was the canopy of leaves." [*Woods Runner*, p. 4]

1. How might woods so vast impact communication? *Deep woods made travel difficult. Roads had to be cut through the woods and the logs cleared. Roads were really just paths – a good road was wide enough for a wagon. No roads were paved or graveled on the frontier. Rain, snow, etc. made them impassable. Since information could only travel as fast as a man or horse could travel, the woods slowed communication down considerably. Plus, the frontier was out-of-the-way. Most people did not go there.*

Loss of old growth forest

2. What do these maps represent? These maps represent the loss of forest from 1620 to today. *The children should understand that the entire east coast was a mass of trees in 1620 and still heavily forested in 1850. The forest was almost impenetrable. Rivers, lakes, and oceans were the preferred and quicker method of travel. It would have been quicker and easier to travel by boat to Europe than to travel to the Mississippi overland. Europeans had not been in America long enough to cut down all the woods in the late 1700's. Our land looks MUCH different today than it did in Samuel's time.*

3. In what ways is Samuel's world different from yours? *This is a purposefully open-ended question to invite discussion about the differences between the colonial and present era. Other topics include living during peaceful times as opposed to war and in the city versus in the country.*

A New Map of North America – 1797

4. Find the area where Samuel's cabin was located. Describe the location using landmarks on the map. *There is no exact location of the cabin. It is located in what is now Pennsylvania, west of Philadelphia, roughly between the words "Philadelphia" and "Lake Erie". This area was the frontier in Samuel's era. His family lived "on the edge" both figuratively and literally.*

Compare/Contrast

5. Compare and contrast the 1797 map with a present day map. What do you notice? *This is a purposefully open-ended question. Ask the students to which map Samuel would more likely have had access. Some important areas to cover would be that whereas the modern map is complete as we know the USA today; the older map is not because North America had not been explored and mapped in its entirety. This was the world as Samuel knew it. The new map has state borders; the old one does not; and the reasons therefore. In fact, the state borders questions could lead to a comparison between colonies and states, which could start a good conversation about the Revolution. Another topic may be the precision of the modern map versus the older map, the “old-timey” script and spellings of the older map.*