



## TEACHER PACKET #2

# WOMEN HOMESTEADERS OF THE GREAT PLAINS

### Indian Creek Historical Fashions

*Where History Comes to Life*

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

They came west for land...  
But what they found was survival.

The **Women Homesteaders Program** reveals the untold stories of women who claimed land under the Homestead Act of 1862—building lives on the open prairie against overwhelming odds.

Through powerful storytelling and personal connection, students discover the strength, isolation, and resilience of women on the frontier.

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## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Understand the impact of the Homestead Act
  - Explore women's roles in westward expansion
  - Analyze challenges of frontier life
  - Connect personal stories to larger history
  - Recognize resilience and survival
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## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- U.S. History
- Westward Expansion
- Women's history

- Great Plains studies
  - Cultural and social development
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## WHAT STUDENTS EXPERIENCE

- Stories of real women homesteaders
  - Daily life inside sod homes
  - Challenges: isolation, weather, survival
  - Emotional connection to personal and family stories
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## WHY THIS PROGRAM WORKS

This program turns history into human experience:

- ✓ Personal stories
- ✓ Emotional storytelling
- ✓ Real-life struggles

**Students don't just learn history—they meet it.**

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## PROGRAM DETAILS

- Length: 45–60 minutes
  - Setting: Indoor or outdoor
  - Audience: Upper elementary – adult
  - Group Size: Flexible
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## SERVICE AREA

Nebraska • Iowa • Missouri • Kansas • Midwest Region

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## ABOUT THE PRESENTER

A descendant of homesteaders, bringing real family history into the program—creating a deeply authentic and personal experience.

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## PRE-VISIT QUESTIONS

- Why would someone leave everything behind for land?
  - What challenges would you expect on the prairie?
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## POST-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Write a letter as a homesteader
  - Compare modern life to frontier life
  - Research local homesteading history
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## WHY THIS MATTERS TODAY

These women built lives from nothing.

Their stories remind us of:

- Strength
- Sacrifice
- Determination

**And the cost of the American dream.**

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## BOOKING

👉 Bring the frontier to life in your classroom

🌐 [www.indiancreekhistoricalfashions.com](http://www.indiancreekhistoricalfashions.com)

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