Standard 8.20 Lesson

Say Thanks to the Authors
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8.20 Explain the impact of individuals who created interest in the land west of the Appalachian Mountains including: (C, G, H, TN)

- long hunters
- Wilderness Road
- Daniel Boone
- William Bean
- Thomas Sharpe Spencer
- Dr. Thomas Walker

This is an artist’s drawing of Daniel Boone leading settlers across the Appalachian Mountains.

The Conestoga Wagon helped the pioneers travel to new regions.

Long Hunters
After the French and Indian War, the British were deeply in debt. Wars cost a great deal of money. Because of the high costs from the war, and not having the money to pay the British army that would be protecting the settlers who settled on Indian land, the king made a line that was called the Proclamation Line. The king said that colonists could not move west of that line. That land would be Indian Territory. Many colonists disregarded the line and settled west of the Appalachians anyway.
Notice the land labeled as Indian Reserve. The Proclamation Line was the brown line on the western border of the Thirteen Colonies.

The long hunters were some of the first white men who crossed the Proclamation Line. They were given this name because of the long amount of time that they would be gone from their homes while they were hunting and trading. Long hunters were a type of scout for the frontier also. They drew maps, located physical landforms, and identified where natural resources were located. They also reported information about Native Americans in this region. The natives believed that the long hunters were a threat to their land and to the animals that the long hunters killed for food sources. Those animals were needed by the Indian’s for their survival.
From the history of Campbell County, Tennessee, the following is an explanation of the long hunters who moved into the region that would become the state of Tennessee.

http://www.tngenweb.org/campbell/hist-bogan/Longhunters-beginning.html

The following article is reprinted from Wikipedia.
A Longhunter (or long hunter) was an 18th-century explorer and hunter who made expeditions into the American frontier wilderness for as much as six months at a time. Historian Emory Hamilton asserts that “The Long Hunter was peculiar to Southwest Virginia only, and nowhere else on any frontier did such hunts ever originate” although the term has been used loosely to describe any unofficial American explorer of the period. Most long hunts started in the Holston River Valley near Chilhowie, Virginia. The hunters came from there and the adjacent valley of the Clinch River, where they were landowners or residents. The parties of two or three men (and rarely more) usually started their hunts in October and ended toward the end of March or early in April.

The information gathered by long hunters in the 1760s and 1770s would prove critical to the early settlement of Tennessee and Kentucky. Many long hunters were employed by land surveyors seeking to take advantage of the departure of the French from the Ohio Valley at the end of the Seven Years’ War. Some later helped guide settlers to Middle Tennessee and southeastern Kentucky.

**The Long Hunters in Tennessee History**

Reconstructed "lean-to" at the long hunter camp demonstration area at Bledsoe’s Fort Historic Park in Sumner County, Tennessee

As colonial settlement approached the base of the Appalachian Mountains in the early 18th century, game in the Piedmont region became more scarce. Merchants returning from trade missions to Overhill Cherokee villages in the Tennessee Valley brought back news of the abundance of game west of the range, and began taking hunters along on their trade expeditions. In 1748 and 1750, Thomas Walker crossed the mountains and explored the Holston River valley, recording and widely publicizing the location of Cumberland Gap—a pass near the modern border of Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee—which allowed relatively easy access to the headwaters of the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers.

In 1761, Elisha Walden (spelled variously "Wallen", "Wallin", and "Walling") led the first major recorded long hunt into what is now Tennessee. Walden set up a station camp in Lee County, Virginia, and trekked into the Clinch and Powell valleys in what is now Hawkins County, Tennessee. That same year, Colonel Adam Stephen led a regiment of Virginia soldiers and militia to Long Island of the Holston, in what is now Sullivan County, Tennessee. The expedition, which was launched in retaliation for the Cherokee sacking of Fort Loudoun in 1760, forced the Cherokee to sign a peace treaty.

The end of the Seven Years’ War in 1763 removed French claims to lands east of the Mississippi River. With the Cherokee threat minimized, long hunters (some of whom may have been veterans of Stephen’s expedition) began crossing into Tennessee and Kentucky in greater numbers. In 1764, Daniel Boone and Richard Callaway explored the upper Holston Valley as agents for Richard Henderson, a land speculator who later played an important role in the early settlement of Tennessee. A camp used by Boone and Callaway would later become the home of Boone’s
friend William Bean, Tennessee’s first known permanent Euro-American settler. He built a cabin at the site around 1769.

**Stones River**

In 1766, James Smith led an ambitious long hunt into Middle and West Tennessee, following the Cumberland River all the way to its mouth. One member of the Smith expedition, Uriah Stone, was hunting along a tributary of the Cumberland when a French hunting companion stole all of his furs. The tributary was subsequently named stones River. Stone returned to the Cumberland valley in 1769 along with fellow hunters Kasper Mansker, Isaac and Abraham Bledsoe, Joseph Drake, and Robert Crockett. Although Crockett was killed, the various trails, salt licks and camping areas identified by the 1766 and 1769 expeditions would later help guide the first English settlers to the Middle Tennessee area.

A royal proclamation issued by King George III in 1763 made it illegal to procure pelts from Cherokee lands without a trading license, which essentially barred hunting west of the Appalachian range. Both the Cherokee and the British, however, had considerable difficulty enforcing this ban. In 1769, Cherokee Chief Oconastota complained to the British Superintendent of Indian Affairs that the entire Cherokee Nation was "filling with Hunters, and the guns rattling every way on the path." While some long hunters had their pelts confiscated by the Cherokee, and a rare few were even killed, most managed to avoid detection.

**Legacy of the Long Hunters**

Various geographical entities in Tennessee are named for long hunters. Walden Ridge, the eastern escarpment of the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee, is named for Elisha Walden, one of the first English Americans to observe it. A high school and dozens of geographical features in Tennessee have been named for Daniel Boone, whose exploits came to symbolize frontier life in Tennessee and Kentucky. Isaac Bledsoe gave his name to Bledsoe Creek in Sumner County, Tennessee, now the site of Bledsoe Creek State Park. Isaac’s brother, Anthony, later became the namesake for Bledsoe County.
In 1780, Kasper Mansker built a frontier station in what is now Goodlettsville, just north of Nashville. In 1986, the city of Goodlettsville built a replica of Mansker’s Station (it is based on historic examples, as the fort’s original layout is unknown), which is now open to the public. In the 1970s, the state of Tennessee established Long Hunter State Park along the J. Percy Priest Lake impoundment of Stones River, in the area where Uriah Stone had his furs stolen more than 200 years earlier.

The Long Hunters in Kentucky History
The end of **King George’s War** in 1748 left control of the territory between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River in dispute. The French wanted the region to connect their holdings in Canada with New Orleans, and the British sought to establish a foothold in the Ohio Valley. The maneuvers of French commander **Pierre-Joseph Celoron de Blainville** in 1749 discouraged English trade west of the Appalachians, although English speculators remained interested in the region. Walker’s 1750 expedition briefly explored what is now southeastern Kentucky, and explorer **Christopher Gist** managed to reach the mouth of the **Kentucky River** in 1751. In the opening years of the French and Indian War, the French gained control of the Ohio Valley with the defeat of George Washington at **Fort Necessity**. With the fall of **Fort Duquesne** and the construction of **Fort Pitt** in 1758, however, the French were forced to evacuate the region. The French departure and a relative state of peace with the Cherokee during the same period opened up the region to English explorers and hunters.

John and Samuel Pringle, two deserters from Fort Pitt, spent much of the early 1760s hunting in the **Tygart Valley** and likely ranged into what is now Kentucky. Part of Elisha Walden’s 1761 party hunted along the **Rockcastle River** from their station camp in southwestern Virginia. In 1767, an expedition led by James Harrod and Michael Holsteiner (Michael Stoner) crossed Kentucky from north-to-south, reaching the Nashville area several weeks after departing from the **Illinois Country**. Around the same time, an expedition led by Benjamin Cutbirth crossed Cumberland Gap and pushed all the way to the Mississippi River, where they shipped the pelts they had collected down to New Orleans.

In 1768, an English explorer named **John Finley** passed through the **Yadkin Valley** and visited Daniel Boone, with whom he had served in the French and Indian War. Finley told Boone of the natural splendor of Kentucky’s
Bluegrass region, which he had visited as a merchant before the French and Indian War. The following year, the two led an expedition into Kentucky, traveling up the Rockcastle River and establishing a station camp at Red Lick Fork. While Boone and a companion named John Stuart were hunting along the Kentucky River, they were captured by the Shawnee, and their pelts were confiscated. They returned to their station camp to find it plundered, and learned that Finley and the rest of the expedition had returned to North Carolina. Undeterred, Boone and Stuart continued hunting in the region. Boone was later joined by his brother, Squire, and the Boone brothers remained in the Kentucky wilderness until 1771. Although they again had their pelts confiscated when they were intercepted by the Cherokee at Cumberland Gap, the Boones were nevertheless eager to return to settle in the region. Daniel Boone’s vivid accounts of his hunting exploits helped draw a flood of settlers to Kentucky in subsequent years.

Numerous natural and political entities in Kentucky bear the names of long hunters, including Boone County and Boonesborough, named for Daniel Boone, and Harrodsburg, named for James Harrod. Kenton County is named for Simon Kenton, who, believing he was a fugitive, spent the mid-1770s hunting in eastern Kentucky. Long hunter James Knox named the Dix River after Cherokee leader Captain Dick, who gave Knox permission to hunt along the river in 1770. The U.S. government established Daniel Boone National Forest in 1937 in the eastern part of the state.

**Notable Long Hunters**

- Isaac Bledsoe
- William Blevins
- Daniel Boone
- Squire Boone
- Richard Callaway
- Robert Crockett
- Benjamin Cutbirth
- John Duff
- James Harrod
- Simon Kenton
- Kasper Mansker
- Joseph Martin
- Henry Scaggs
Daniel Boone - Wilderness Road

This is an antique video! This an old Walt Disney video - Daniel Boone and the Wilderness Road. Watch and enjoy vintage Walt Disney!!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpyUvWF0xLM

The Adventures of Daniel Boone

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPyBMY08x1U

Daniel Home Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnmAaYEb0wM

History Bill is looking for Tennessee and Daniel Boone!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdsanxn6r8Q
Some of the long hunters became famous - Daniel Boone is likely one of the most famous long hunters in Tennessee and American history. Daniel was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in North Carolina. He married Rebecca Bryan and they had 10 children. He was a very skilled hunter and after serving in the French and Indian War, he crossed the Appalachians to hunt.

He built a settlement in Kentucky, but he spent lots of time hunting in Tennessee. Boone told great stories about the things he had seen. He told of the beautiful mountains and the animals of the mountains.

Boone did come in contact with the Native Americans. On one hunting trip, the Shawnee stole all of the furs that he had trapped and warned him to never return. He didn’t take the warning seriously because he returned to North Carolina and began making plans to create a road - the Wilderness Road - that would lead him to where he would build Fort Boonesborough in southern Kentucky. The Wilderness Road opened up more land for settlers who wanted to move west.

During the American Revolution, Boone was captured by the Shawnee and held captive for 5 months. He escaped and was able to reach Boonesborough in time to warn his family and friends of an Indian attack. They settlers were warned in time to defend their settlement.
From www.ducksters.com, the following information about Daniel Boone is great!

Yay for Mr. Nussbaum and his information about Daniel Boone!
http://mrnussbaum.com/pioneers/daniel_boone/

This is a reenactment of Daniel Boone and the Battle of the Block House.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEosdngol_w
This is a link to a tour of the Cumberland Gap.
http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/places/cumberland_gap
Thomas Sharp Spencer

From the Encyclopedia of Tennessee History, is this information about Thomas Sharp Spencer.

http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=1243

Thomas Sharp Spencer was a long hunter who hunted in Middle Tennessee in about 1776 and eventually settled there. He may have been the first white man to settle in Middle Tennessee. There were many colorful stories told about Spencer. He was said to have had very large feet. When his footprint was left in the earth, a hunter who came along believed that giants lived in the Cumberland region! He was said to have been very strong and even cautious when it came to fights. He was afraid that he might really hurt or kill someone if he fought them. Spencer also told stories about how he lived an entire winter in a hollow tree. He was killed in an Indian skirmish in 1796. He died in Van Buren County, Tennessee.
William Bean

William Bean and his wife were the first permanent white settlers in the land that later became the state of Tennessee. Bean moved from Virginia to the Watauga River region of East Tennessee. Bean and his wife built a cabin on Boone’s Creek, and they were very careful when they planned building their home. They wanted the cabin to be hidden from view. So when the Indians paddled down the river, the Beans made sure that the cabin wasn’t visible.

As time passed, the Beans cleared land and began to farm. As settlers crossed the mountains, many decided to stop and settle in the region that became known as the Watauga Settlements.

Dr. Thomas Walker
Dr. Walker crossed the Cumberland Gap and crossed into Tennessee in the 1750s. He canoed his way down the Cumberland River and named the river in honor of the Duke of Cumberland.

The following is an article about Dr. Thomas Walker from Wikipedia.

Thomas Walker (explorer)
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
Thomas Walker (January 25, 1715 – November 9, 1794) was a distinguished physician and explorer from Virginia; in the mid-18th century, he was part of an expedition to the region beyond the Allegheny Mountains and the unsettled area of British North America. Walker and fellow Virginian, Indian agent, explorer for Patrick Henry, legislator of three states, surveyor of KY/VA & TN/NC borders, and later Revolutionary war general, Joseph Martin, were some of the first colonists to travel in this area. Martin’s son, Revolutionary War officer Col. William Martin, describes the naming of the area and river in a letter to historian Lyman Draper, “A treaty with the Cherokees was held at Fort Chiswell on New River, then a frontier. On the return of the chief’s home, Dr. [Thomas] Walker, a gentleman of distinction, and my father, [General] Joseph Martin, accompanied them. The Indians being guides, they passed through the place now called Cumberland Gap, where they discovered a fine spring. They still had a little rum remaining, and they drank to the health of the Duke of Cumberland. This gave rise to the name of Cumberland Mountain and Cumberland River.”

Prince William Augustus, the Duke of Cumberland, was a hero of the time. Walker explored Kentucky in 1750, 19 years before the arrival of Daniel Boone.

Walker served as guardian for Thomas Jefferson, who was eleven years old when his second parent, his father Peter Jefferson, died in 1757. Two of Walker’s own sons, John and Francis Walker, became Congressmen in the new United States.

**Early Days**

Thomas Walker was born at "Rye Field", Walkerton, King and Queen County, Virginia. He was raised as an Englishman in the Tidewater region of Virginia. Walker’s first profession was that of a physician; he had attended the College of William and Mary and studied under his brother-in-law Dr. George Gilmer.

Walker became a man of status in the county when he married Mildred Thornton (widow of Nicholas Meriwether) in 1741, and acquired a large portion of land from her late husband’s estate. The new couple built a home known as Castle Hill there and had 12 children. They in turn became prominent Albemarle County citizens in their own rights.

In April 1744, Walker was elected as vestryman at his church, a position he held for more than forty years, until 1785. He served Virginia as a delegate to the House of Burgesses from Albemarle County, and was a trustee of the newly formed town of Charlottesville.

**Exploration**

On July 12, 1749, the Loyal Land Company was founded with Walker as a leading member. After receiving a royal grant of 800,000 acres (3,200 km²) in what is now southeastern Kentucky (which was occupied by Native Americans), the company appointed Walker to lead an expedition to explore and survey the region in 1750. Walker was named head of the Loyal Land Company in 1752.

Replica of the first house built in Kentucky

During the expedition, Walker gave names to many topographical features, including the Cumberland Gap. His party built the first non-Indian house (a cabin) in Kentucky. Walker kept a daily journal of the trip.
At the age of 64, Walker traveled to the western areas of Kentucky and Tennessee again; he had been commissioned to survey the border between westward of the Virginia and North Carolina. (At that time each state claimed the land to the west of their boundaries for ultimate settlement by the right of "discovery.") Because the border was mapped and surveyed, rather than created along the natural boundary of a river, it was considered controversial. It was called the "Walker Line," and still constitutes the border between Kentucky and Tennessee from east to west terminating at the Tennessee River.

Walker was influential in dealing with Indian affairs. He was appointed to represent Virginia at the Treaty of Fort Stanwix and Treaty of Lochaber (1770), and dealt with the peace negotiations after the Battle of Point Pleasant. In 1775, Walker served as a Virginia commissioner in negotiations with representatives of the Iroquois Six Nations in Pittsburgh, as the colonies tried to engage them as allies against the British.

He is credited as the first American to discover and use coal found in Kentucky.

Due to his broad knowledge of the areas and their resources, Walker served as an adviser to Thomas Jefferson from 1780-1783 on what became his book, Notes on the State of Virginia (1785).

**Final Years**

After the death of his first wife, in 1781 Walker married Elizabeth Thornton. Thomas Walker died on November 9, 1794 at his home of Castle Hill. At the time of his death, Walker was noted as the fourth wealthiest citizen of Albemarle County.

- The state built a replica of the cabin which his expedition put up in present-day Kentucky; it has been designated as the Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site.

**Table 1.2:**

Additional Information about Dr. Walker

http://www.virgiiniaplaces.org/settleland/thomaswalker.html

History of Dr. Thomas Walker

http://parks.ky.gov/parks/historicsites/thomas-walker/history.aspx