



# Daniel Boone

Daniel Boone was a pioneer, an explorer, and one of America's first folk heroes. He was born in the colony of Pennsylvania in 1734 and grew up on a farm as one of twelve children. He spent a great deal of his time outdoors. He befriended the local Delaware Indians, who taught him to track, trap, and hunt, and Daniel began to dress like the Indians. He received his first rifle when he was thirteen, and was soon a skilled hunter. In 1751, the Boone family moved to North Carolina, where Boone earned a reputation as an excellent marksman.

In 1754, Daniel worked as a supply wagon driver and a blacksmith in the British army in the French and Indian War. After the war, he went back to North Carolina, married, and started a family. It was around this time that he learned about on the western side of the Appalachian Mountains called Kentucky.

Boone made his first trip to Kentucky in 1769, where he discovered a narrow passageway through the mountain range called the Cumberland Gap. The land he found in Kentucky was rich for farming and hunting. Boone and his brother stayed there hunting and trapping for furs and pelts until they were captured by the Shawnee Indians. According to an agreement the Shawnee had with the British, the tribe owned the land west of the Appalachian Mountains, and they sent the intruders away. A few years later, though Boone returned to Kentucky, helping to build a road that became part of the Wilderness Trail. Some 300,000 settlers would travel this trail over the next 35 years. Boone explorations and pioneering efforts directly contributed to the first settlements in Kentucky and to Kentucky becoming the 15th U.S. state in 1792.

**DIRECTIONS:** On the back of this page, write a short paragraph explaining Daniel Boone's role in manifest destiny.