

CORYDON, INDIANA, 1813-1825

By Janet Kluemper

GRADE LEVEL: Elementary

Prepared in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the

"INDIANA AND THE NEW NATION, 1776-1876"
a project of the Historic Southern Indiana Project
of the University of Southern Indiana
8600 University Boulevard
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Corydon, Indiana 1813-1825

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Description:

Objectives:

To gain knowledge about Corydon's history as the capital of the Indiana Territory and later as the first capital of the state of Indiana

To become aware of Indiana's heritage--that Indiana was part of the Northwest Territory, then the Indiana Territory; that the first state capital was Corydon; that the first state constitution was written at Corydon, and early Indiana's history was shaped there in BUILDINGS that

are still in existence and by PEOPLE who lived in Corydon at that time

To locate early communities of Indiana on a state map

To become familiar with the early history of Indiana

Plant communities and with some of the early history of the state

Lesson Plan: one lesson per day

Lesson 1--William Henry Harrison

Lesson 2--The Birth of Indiana-1816

Lesson 3--Indiana as a Territory, 1800-1816

Lesson 4--Places to Visit in Corydon

Lesson 5--People in the History of Corydon

Days 6 to 8?--Field Trip, Evaluation

Evaluation Suggestions:

1. Students can write and perform a skit depicting a scene from one of the lessons. One of the sites to visit can serve as background. Persons from the last lesson can possibly be the characters.

2. Students write a brief report on Corydon or on one aspect of the

materials covered. A photo essay would be recommended or visual aids could be made and included.

3. Students make a picture book for younger children on any one of the topics addressed.

4. More advanced students can hold a class debate on one of the then-disputed issues, e.g., choosing the site that would replace Vincennes.

William Henry Harrison

William Henry Harrison was only 27 years old when he became the governor of the Indiana Territory. He was born in Berkeley, Virginia, on Feb. 9, 1773 and belonged to a family prominent in Revolutionary times. His father was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and was later the

Governor Harrison became very famous for this battle and later received his title "Old Tippecanoe" from his part in this battle. Numerous Indiana counties are named for officers in this battle--Bartholomew, Daviess, Dubois, Owen, Randolph, Wells, to name a few.

Soon after the Battle of Tippecanoe, John Gibson became acting governor

this lesson. Write your list of words at the bottom of the page. Then, write each word in the squares going across, down, or diagonally. Add

P J B G Y O D Q W T T N Q D G O V U X I Q

T R E A T I E S I E R S U R V E Y D I P H
E I G M A P I H O I P M M Z E P Y D O M T

C Q C C P S A A O Z I G Z T R O S S P C Q
U J G L U O L R F I T L V I N C E N N E S
M S M P X N I N S H O Q B P O X D J Z F K
S Q A T J M V X U Q R E U P R K I C U A D
E U C D P A N N A S Y M M E S X P A X D C
H A R R I S O N G G F X B C O N O Z P Q G
S T E W U H R R A J O R A R U G U V C I
L T S E S A T V N S P E U N I Y F M Z Z X
A E R P R W H Q R P R U D C C A T E R A I

V R T W R N W O N J M X R F I L K Y U M S U L

P U O C C E E T T E E E C O V E M Y E E

Y E A E S O C U C B T Z Y N H O P O U

Indiana as a Territory 1800-1816

The population of the Indiana Territory in 1800 was approximately 25,000.

The territory consisted of nearly all of Indiana, the western half of Michigan

and the present states of Illinois and Wisconsin. It even included part of what is now Missouri.

When the legislature met in 1813, it decided that the capital of Indiana should be moved from Vincennes to a center location. It was decided to

move it to Corydon. This was done on May 1, 1813. In December of 1815 the territorial legislature asked Congress for admission as a state.

It was well known that Indiana would enter the Union as a free state and on account of a compromise between the representatives of the slave and



The Birth of Indiana--1816

The birth of Indiana began with the passage in Congress of the Enabling Act which was approved by President James Monroe on April 19, 1816. This made it possible for delegates from the Indiana Territory to be chosen for

new state of Indiana by Frederick Rapp. He was a delegate from New

prosperous Rappite community of New Harmony.

On August 5, 1816, Indiana held its first state elections. Jonathan Jennings was elected the first governor. He later won another election and then served Indiana in the U.S. Congress.

On December 11, 1816, the Congress of the United States...

Places to Visit in Corydon
From This Early Period

Log Courthouse Site

An unfinished log court house was built in 1813 on the site of the present courthouse.

to use for county business. When the territorial court house was moved to Corydon in 1813, the territorial officers shared this court house with the Harrison County officials. During the writing of the constitution, 43 delegates from Indiana's 13 counties met in the little "courthouse on the

hill." Due to the cramped quarters, it is understandable that the delegation spent many of their sessions under the shade of the giant old elm tree just

The log courthouse was torn down and now a large plaque marks the place where it once stood. A barn was built on this same location in 1817.

This two-story Enders-Letula brick house was built by David Clark in

People in the History of Corydon

population of Indiana was just about the same as the population of one city

today. Most of the people were farmers and very little manufacturing.

Boone first had lived in Kentucky. Sometimes crossing the river he would hunt in Indiana. On one of these trips he discovered a small cave, just north of the Ohio River and south of present-day Corydon. Not far away was a large spring that flowed into the river. The Indians called it

General William Henry Harrison was personally known to everyone in

John Tipton moved there in 1807. He became the first sheriff. At the

became their leader after Spencer's death.

David Craig established a tavern on Elm Street in 1816. When President

James Monroe and General Andrew Jackson visited Corydon on June 22nd