



Name _____

Date _____

**Media-Rich Lesson Plan #2: The Ballad of Rob Wrong
"How the West Was Fun" ANSWER KEY**

Log on to the "How the West Was Fun" essay at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/frontierhouse/frontierlife/essay9.html>, or read the copy of the essay you have received. Please read the essay, and answer the questions below.

1) What did frontier settlers read to pass the time?

Settlers read a wide range of materials, including: the Bible, classic literature, newspapers and magazines, catalogues, and serials, or "continued stories."

2) What tasks could be accomplished during a bee?

Bees could be held to accomplish a variety of tasks, including: quilting, corn husking, harvesting, barn-raising, or cabin-building.

3) Where did people get their music on the frontier?

Settlers on the frontier had to make their own music on instruments such as fiddles, harmonicas, banjos, washboards, and spoons.

4) Name some popular songs on the frontier.

"Skip to My Lou"
"The Girl I Left Behind Me"
"Buffalo Girls"
"Home on the Range"

5) What is a play-party?

"Play-parties" were sometimes referred to as "Presbyterian dances." Play parties featured all the elements of dances, except for the music. Participants played games which today might be found on elementary school playgrounds, such as Ring- Around-the-Rosy, Blind Man's Bluff, Drop the Handkerchief, and Cat Wants a Corner. Play-party goes sometimes maneuvered themselves through elaborate movement forms -- similar to square dancing -- while chanting verses, poems, and song lyrics.

6) What would happen during a shivaree?

A shivaree was held on a couple's wedding night. Shivaree participants would arrive at the couple's home, begin banging pots and pans, singing, and yelling to get the attention of the couple. If the couple refused to come out, the shivaree leader would bang on the door, demanding admittance, so that the party could come inside and to celebrate the wedding and toast the bride and groom's good health. If the groom appeared at the door and gave the party some money or another treat, the party might be convinced to go and celebrate elsewhere. If the party's noisemaking was ignored, it was not uncommon for them to break into the house, abduct the groom, and carry him miles away on horseback, leaving him -- in varying stages of undress -- to find his way home in the dark.