

Oklahoma! Activities

Antiques The early settlers in the Oklahoma Territory had to survive and begin new lives with very little. Explore with your residents some of the household items used by the pioneers. Find a local antique dealer or collector who is willing to bring some interesting items to share with your residents.



Butter One of the common chores on the farms of the early settlers is churning butter. Using heavy cream, your residents can churn their own butter using a mason jar.



Quilts Quilts and quilting bees were an important part of pioneer life. Quilts were made for special occasions, such as the birth of a baby or a wedding. The ladies of the community would get together to quilt. Depending on the skill level of your residents, start a quilting club. Discuss with your residents the different types of [quilts](#). How were quilts a part of their lives? Are quilts family heirlooms?



Pioneer Games Pioneer children and adults kept themselves entertained with simple indoor and outdoor games. For an intergenerational activity, invite young guests to enjoy simple games with your residents. Try a few of these: [Jack straws](#), [Who has the Button](#), [Cat's Cradle](#).



Braided Rug In a prairie home nothing went to waste. Collect material scraps from family and staff and work with your residents to make unique [braided rugs](#).

State Song The song, "Oklahoma", with words by Oscar Hammerstein II and music by Richard Rodgers, was adopted by the Oklahoma Legislature as the official state song of Oklahoma on May 11, 1953. Do your residents know the song for their state? Learn more about your [state song](#). Have your residents practice and perform the song for visitors



Debate Tension in the musical Oklahoma! comes from the farmers' desire to protect their crops with fences while the cowmen prefer the freedom to move cattle over a wide open range. Hold a friendly debate among your residents about this topic. What are the arguments for both sides? What might be a good compromise?



Flowers During the spring and summer months the country side is covered with beautiful wildflowers. Prairie women and children collected the flowers and pressed them to keep them for decoration during the winter months. Follow these instructions for [pressed flowers](#) and use the flowers to create handmade greeting cards and other decorations.



Candles Have your residents make their own [hand-dipped taper candles](#) for decoration during your Oklahoma! themed celebration.