

A-Z in the Ozarks
Story Box Descriptions
(Recommended for grades K-2 & ESL)

The *A-Z in the Ozark* program is a series designed to enrich basic learning in the classroom. Each of the 26 history lessons can stand alone or be used together. In addition, the lessons and activities often cross the boundaries of other curriculums such as math, science, and language arts. They can be used to supplement phonics programs, and are designed to be used by the teacher. The following gives a brief overview of each lesson.

A - Aviators: Learn about the famous aviators of the Ozarks and the machines they flew.

B - Bees: Students learn how bees pollinate to make honey and how the process is critical to our food supply.

C - Cabins: Students learn the process of cabin-making. Discussion includes what types of cabins were used by the pioneers.

D - Diamonds and Minerals: The lesson reviews the five regions of Arkansas as well as various minerals that are derived from each region.

E - Eagles: Students learn the importance of these majestic birds such as the Bald Eagle and how they live in Arkansas and how they are important as an American symbol.

F - Farming: Students will learn about Farmers, what they can grow, what tools they use and how they are important to America and the world.

G - Gardening: The importance of keeping the world clean and ourselves healthy by gardening.

H – Horses: Students will learn how the horse helped many pioneer families come to Arkansas, helped them farm the land, transport crops, and is still used by many people today.

I - Immigrants: America is a land of immigrants and kids will learn about the many peoples that have made the area what it is today.

J - Jams and Jellies: Various types of berries are reviewed and students learn about making jelly.

K - Kitchens: Old fashioned cooking methods and cookware are studied.

L - Latinos: Kids will explore the many different Latino groups we have in the Ozarks and how they benefit our lives through their cultural.

M – Music and Musicians: In addition to the storybook *Turkey in the Straw* by Barbara Shook Hazen, recordings *Ozark Folk Music* and *Mountain Dulcimer* are included so students may hear

the song “Turkey in the Straw,” as well as the many other instruments found in the rural landscape of Arkansas.

N - Native Americans: Students will learn about the Native Americans in Arkansas and what they ate, how they made their homes and where they are living today.

O - One Room School Houses: Students will learn the difference in schools of the past and their school today by doing different lessons and experiencing the objects that people used.

P - Pigs: Pigs were once an important part of the home life in the Ozarks. They were used for food and became a famous symbol for the University of Arkansas that has been used by businesses and fans.

Q - Quilts: Students explore the process of making quilts using the book *My Grandmother’s Patchwork Quilt* by Janet Bolton and have the opportunity to observe several quilt blocks.

R – Rogers: Brief look at the town of Rogers and the changes that have taken place.

S - Sports: Sports are an important part of daily life for many students and their parents. We will explore the teams and championships that have occurred in the Natural State.

T - Trains: Trains made the towns in the Ozarks what they are today. This box will show the importance of trains, the workers and material they haul.

U – Underwear: Students enjoy hands-on observations of old fashioned undergarments after enjoying the adventure of Zachary the Zebra in the book *Underwear* by Mary Elise Monsell.

V - Voting & Citizenship: Every student should be aware of the importance of voting and the rights and responsibilities they have to change something.

W - Wool and Weaving: Students look at the process of bartering and how involved making a winter coat can be when you go from raw material to the finished product.

X – X Marks the Spot: Students will learn about maps through books and activities. Box includes historic maps of our area as well.

Y – Yo-Yo's & More: A few examples of the many toys that kids of the past used to play with and enjoy.

Z - Zoos: There are unique non-native animals in Northwest Arkansas and the students will learn about the Zoos where they reside and as well as the animals themselves.

*All 26 boxes are rotated to participating schools, to be used at teacher discretion. Boxes are rotated through school libraries during the school year. Boxes that are not currently on rotation are also available for individual check-out.