

Paul Bunyan - Childhood A00166

Section	Pages
Story with words filled in	2
Vocabulary picture sheet	3
Student “Fill in” document	4

This material was adapted by Peter Schmitt from a variety of different versions of Paul Bunyan folktales.

Audio is read by Michael Wright and Bruce Stout.

Paul Bunyan - Childhood

Paul Bunyan is the fictional subject of some American folk stories. He was a **giant** who worked as a lumberjack. A **lumberjack** is a person who cuts down trees to be made into **lumber**. Lumber is the word for the wood used to make houses, furniture, etc. In the past, lumberjacks cut trees with **axes**, but now lumberjacks use **chainsaws**. The legends of Paul Bunyan begin with stories of his childhood.



Paul Bunyan's Childhood

Paul Bunyan was from the state of Maine in the United States. When he was born he was so big that it took five **storks** to carry him. He grew quickly. After just a week, he had to wear his father's clothes. Instead of a **baby carriage**, he was taken for rides in a huge **wagon** pulled by **oxen**. He became so big, that he could not fit in his **cradle**. So his parents put him on a big **raft** in the ocean. When Paul turned over in his sleep it caused huge **waves** in the ocean. The waves were so big that they sunk ships that were nearby.

On Paul Bunyan's first birthday, his father gave him a pet blue ox named "Babe." As a child Paul played with an ax and a **saw** instead of toys like the other children. He would eat 40 bowls of oatmeal and still be hungry.

Paul Bunyan became bigger and bigger. When he was a young boy he was already so big that his shirts had to use **wagon wheels** as **buttons**.

Tall Tales

We call this type of story a "Tall **Tale**." This means that the story is so **exaggerated** that it cannot be true, and everybody knows it cannot be true.

Vocabulary



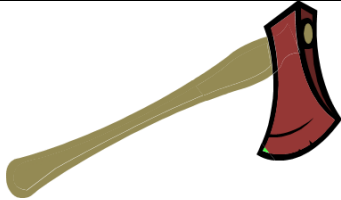
Giant



Lumberjack



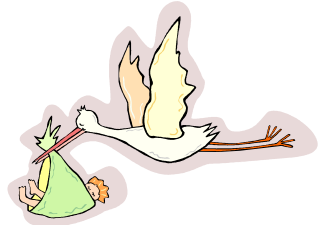
Lumber



Ax (or Axe)
Plural: Axes



Chainsaw



Stork



Baby carriage



Wagon



Ox (Plural: Oxen)



Cradle



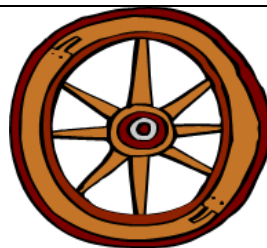
Raft



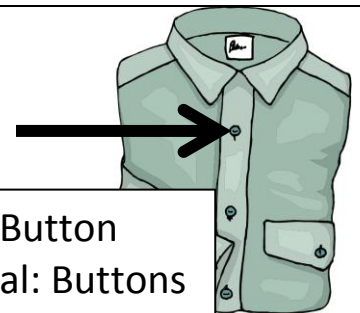
Waves



A Saw (noun)



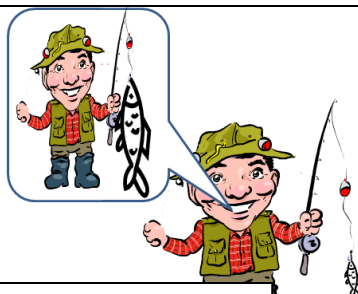
Wagon Wheel



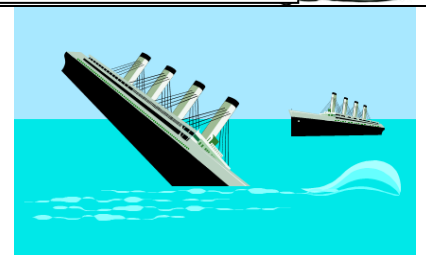
Button
Plural: Buttons



Tale (Story)



To Exaggerate



To Sink
(past: Sunk)

Paul Bunyan - Childhood

Paul Bunyan is the fictional subject of some American folk _____. He was a **giant** _____ worked as a lumberjack. A **lumberjack** is a person who cuts down trees to be made into **lumber**. Lumber is the word for the wood used to _____ houses, furniture, etc. In the past, lumberjacks _____ trees with **axes**, but now lumberjacks _____ **chainsaws**. The legends of Paul Bunyan begin with _____ of his childhood.



Paul Bunyan's Childhood

Paul Bunyan was from the _____ of Maine in the United States. When he was born he was so _____ that it took five **storks** to carry him. He grew quickly. After just a week, he had to _____ his father's clothes. Instead of a **baby carriage**, he was taken for rides in a huge **wagon** pulled by **oxen**. He became _____ big, that he could not fit in his **cradle**. So his parents _____ him on a big **raft** in the ocean. _____ Paul turned over in his sleep it caused huge **waves** in the ocean. The waves _____ so big that they sunk ships that were nearby.

On Paul Bunyan's _____ birthday, his father gave him a pet blue ox named "Babe." As a child Paul _____ with an axe and a **saw** instead of toys like the other children. He would eat 40 bowls of oatmeal and still be _____.

Paul Bunyan became bigger and bigger. When he was a young _____ he was already so big that his _____ had to use **wagon wheels** as **buttons**.

Tall Tales

We call this _____ of story a "Tall **Tale**." This means that the story is so **exaggerated** that it cannot be _____, and everybody knows it cannot be true.