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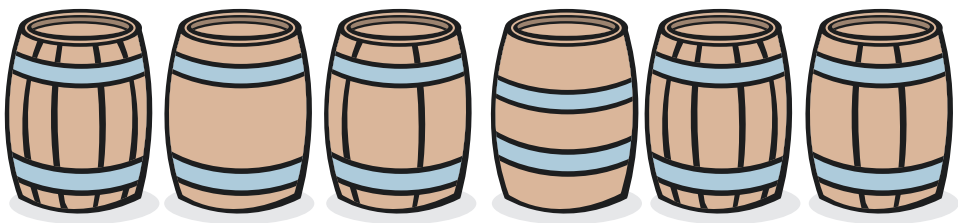
KID SCOOP AMERICAN LEGENDS

ANNIE CHRISTMAS

Paul Bunyon isn't the only giant in American legends. Old-timers along the Mississippi River tell of a giant of a woman – Annie Christmas. The stories say she worked on the river docks near the French Quarter in New Orleans and she was fearless – especially when it came to dealing with bullies who hung out on the docks.

Help Annie find the two matching barrels.



Standards Link: Visual discrimination.

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

Longshoreman *n.* A dock worker who loads and unloads ships.
Keelboat *n.* A large flat-bottomed river boat used to carry freight.

When you see blank line in the story below, a word is missing. Select one of the words in Annie's barrel for each blank until the story makes sense.

Annie and the Red Dress

Occasionally, Annie liked to get all dressed up. Once, she put on a red satin ____ and red feather plumes in her hair and took a trip on a _____ called the *Natchez Belle*.

The captain of that boat was as stubborn as he was mean. When the _____ turned bad, he decided to take a shortcut through a channel that cut across a bend in the _____ River.

Annie knew the river like the back of her hand and she knew that the cutoff was full of snags and sandbars that could _____ the big paddle wheeler.

But the stubborn captain wouldn't listen. When the boat hit a sandbar, Annie loaded passengers on her keelboat and fought the current back to the main river. Behind her the *Natchez Belle* was broken up and _____ by the muddy, swirling river water.

The _____ hugged Annie, thanking her for saving their lives. They say Annie's face turned as red as her dress.

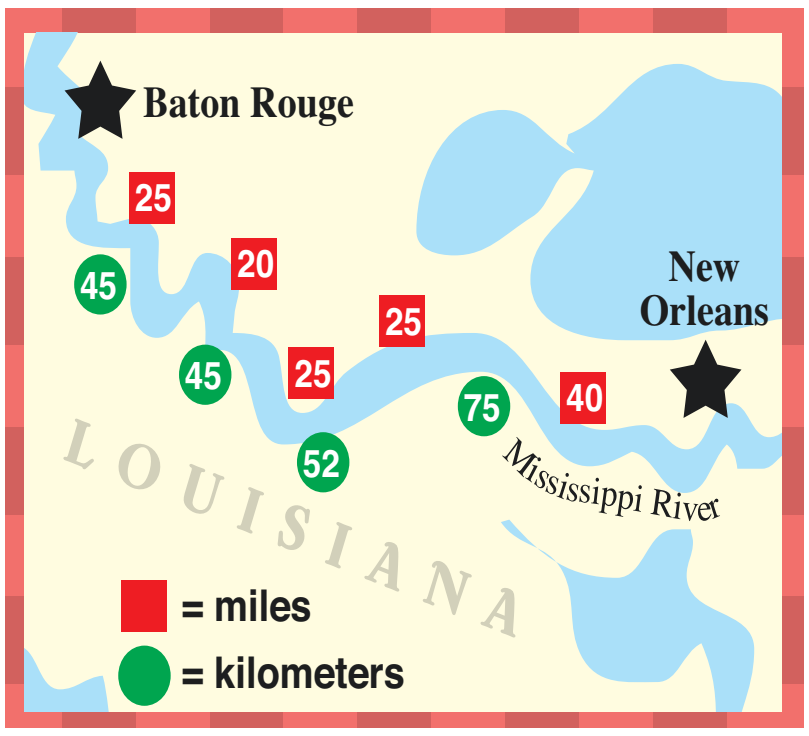
Standards Link: Literary Response: Students comprehend basic plots of folk tales.

Annie's Strength

For longshoremen along the Mississippi River, it was the highest compliment to be called "as strong as Annie Christmas." Legends say that Annie could carry a barrel of flour under each arm and another balanced on her head. Once she towed a keelboat from New Orleans to Baton Rouge and never got out of breath.

Use the map to calculate how many miles or kilometers she towed her keelboat.

Standards Link: History: Students understand variouscultures drawing from folklore.



Extra! Extra!

Spin a Tale

Glue a newspaper photo onto a piece of paper. Then draw a picture of what might happen next. Pass the two pictures to a friend and have him/her draw a picture of what might happen after your picture.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Students use pre-writing strategies to organize and focus narratives.

Pearls of Wisdom

Because she worked on the docks, Annie wore men's clothing most of the time. But she always wore her pearls. She added one pearl every time she whipped a man in a fight. Add the numbers on each string of pearls below to learn more about the amazing Annie Christmas legend.

Length (in feet) of Annie's pearl necklace:

6 5 8 7 4 = _____

Annie's weight (in pounds):

75 25 25 25 25 75 = _____

Annie's height (in inches):

20 15 13 12 7 3 = _____

Standards Links: Number Sense: Students compute sum to 250.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

ANNIE
CHRISTMAS
KEELBOAT
LEGENDS
RIVER
FEARLESS
DRESS
PEARLS
DOCKS
TOWED
STRING
SINK
TALE
DRAW
BEND

A	G	T	I	S	S	A	N	T	S
T	W	O	O	K	I	L	F	A	S
G	A	A	C	W	E	N	M	O	S
N	R	O	P	G	E	T	K	B	E
I	D	R	E	S	S	D	W	L	L
R	O	N	A	I	R	I	V	E	R
T	D	M	R	A	N	N	A	E	A
S	V	H	L	B	E	N	D	K	E
N	C	N	S	E	E	L	A	T	F

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together:

Proof It!

*Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the article below and circle the **seven errors** you find. Then rewrite the article correctly on the lines below the article.*

Folktales are Everywhere

While people live in different places and speak different languages, they all love a reelly good story.
really

Before there were books, peeple told stories to each other. Parents told the stories two their children. Those children told the stories to their childrens and so on, for hundreds off years. Each storiteller might change the story a bit, but for the most part the stories stayed the same.

These are called folktales. Do you no any of these folktales?

Paul Bunyan
Brer Rabbit
Cinderella
Jack and the Beanstalk

_____
_____
_____