

Corneal McCormick Video - Discussion & Activities:

1. Mr. McCormick walked along the Ohio River thinking about his past. He started out by saying what a pleasant day it was. What time of year do you think it was? Was it a windy day? Draw a picture of him as you remember.
2. Mr. McCormick lived most of his life in Newburgh, however, he was not born in Newburgh. Do you remember where he was born?
3. The Ohio River serves as a boundary between two states. Indiana is on one side of the river. What state is on the other side of the Ohio River?
4. If Mr. McCormick's family moved to Newburgh when he was in about 2nd or 4th grade, about how old would he have been?
5. If Mr. McCormick was born in 1830 and were alive today, how old would he be?!!
6. Mr. McCormick gave an interesting reason for the name of Newburgh. What did b-u-r-g-h mean in German? Why did he say Newburgh was such a good name?
7. What made Newburgh a very busy and exciting place? Do you see 20 or more boats coming to Newburgh each day? Do you see horses, cattle, pigs and dogs roaming the streets of Newburgh? Would you like to see all this excitement?
8. Many workers helped unload the boats. That meant Newburgh had many visitors each day. Based on the video what do you think the visitors saw in Newburgh? Describe in either a story, picture, song or poem the way Newburgh looked, sounded or felt like to Corneal McCormick.
9. All this activity along the river in Newburgh made young Corneal McCormick wish to open his own store and become a merchant when he grew up. What is a merchant? Are there any merchants you can name? Did Corneal's dream come true?
10. Research to find what a Dry Goods merchant would have sold in a Dry Goods store. Today a large store such as Walmart might be considered a modern Dry Goods store because of all the various merchandise for sale there.

11. Besides loving school what else did Corneal remember enjoying as he grew up? He said he often sang at home. Do you sing at home or at school? Do you hear music at home? Does anyone in your family play a musical instrument? What musical instrument did Corneal learn to make?
12. At about age 12 Corneal lost both of his parents. That would be very sad. Corneal said his life suddenly become more serious. After high school he began to work as a teacher. He probably taught young children about your age. He saved his money because he knew he needed to learn more to become a merchant. He needed to learn bookkeeping at a business school. He moved to Louisville, KY to attend a business school and learn to be a bookkeeper. Bookkeeping is a way of keeping a good record of what is sold and what is spent in a business. If you spent \$25 for a new bicycle tire and then sold the bike for \$100, did you make a profit and how much? Can you see how bookkeeping helps make a business successful?
13. While learning bookkeeping at business college in Louisville, KY, Corneal visited museums to relax his mind. He loved to see the beautiful violins displayed in museums there. In addition to becoming a bookkeeper and merchant, Corneal discovered he loved violins. His hope was to one day make his own violins. Do you have a dream for yourself? Even today you may have more than one goal for yourself. Could you be the best student you can be and still be the best soccer player or singer or picture drawer or story teller you can be? Explain what you think.
14. Finally, Corneal finished business school and became a bookkeeper for a steamboat company! He traveled many times from Louisville to Louisiana and back. What large city in Louisiana did he travel to? What rivers did he travel to get there? On a map you can locate these rivers and cities. Would Newburgh or Evansville be on the route he took to Louisiana?
15. Corneal said the steamboat company job was full of adventure. What interesting things did he see while traveling on the steamboat? Can you draw a steamboat on the Ohio River passing by some of these interesting things?
16. Have you ever seen a buffalo or bison? Have you been to Evansville, Indiana, Memphis Tennessee or New Orleans, Louisiana? Do you like to travel? Have you ever traveled on a boat?
17. Corneal was always very good at saving his money. Instead of spending money on unimportant things, he saved his money for things he dreamed of having...like his own business, his own house and even his own farm. Do you think it is a good idea to save some money? Have you ever saved money for something special? Perhaps you have even saved money to buy a gift for someone else! Tell of some things you might save your money for...maybe a new game or a better bicycle.
18. Mr. McCormick's business was called a Dry Goods Store. He mentioned some items he sold in this store. Do you recall some of those things? Are there stores today where you could buy all of those things at one time in one store?

19. Where did Mr. McCormick say he made his violins? He must have had a little workshop room in back of his Dry Goods Store. Does anyone in your family have a workshop? Sometimes workshops are in a garage or a basement of a home. If you had your very own workshop at home what would you do in it? Would you make things...or take things apart to study them, or would you fix things that have broken? You might even practice painting, drawing, playing a musical instrument, dancing or dribbling a basketball in your workshop!

20. Did you like Mr. McCormick's home? Could you draw a picture of it? He was proud of the 'Look Out' at the very top of the roof. Maybe he watched for boats on the river from up there. Would you like a 'Look Out' on top of your house?

21. Not only did Mr. McCormick make his violins, he also write music to be played on his violins. And he loved to watch and hear bands march by his home playing his music. Besides a parade where else might you be able to watch and listen to a band today? At a football game? At fireworks on the 4th of July? At the amphitheatre in Newburgh along the riverfront?

22. When you visit the Newburgh Museum you will see a violin Mr. McCormick made with his very own homemade tools. And you will see a photo of him sitting near his special wood pile used to make his violins. Please visit the museum and see for yourself what a talented man Mr. McCormick was. Create your own songs like he did and sing them with all your heart!

23. Write or share with others words or phrases that describe Mr. Corneal McCormick such as:
 - Born in Kentucky
 - Loved School
 - Taught School

24. Finally, Mr. McCormick loved excitement and adventure. Write a few sentences explaining what you like to do most for excitement and adventure....ride a rollercoaster, explore a cave or unknown place, for example.

25. Make your own music as Mr. McCormick did by singing, learning to play a musical instrument, writing your own songs.