

A Walk With the Bethell Boys Video - Discussion & Activities:

1. Which brother was older...Thomas or Union? Do you remember how many years older?
2. The brothers were partners in their work. Their warehouse was large and located right on the river bank. They sold just about anything a family would need. Can you name some of those items?
3. The ancestors of the Bethell brothers came to America almost 400 years ago!! First they settled in Virginia, then North Carolina and then Tennessee before coming to Indiana. Find these states on a map of the United States. Can you also locate the State Capitals of those states?
4. Have you ever noticed the homes of Thomas or Union in Newburgh? Which brother had the first bathtub in Newburgh? Perhaps you could ask your parents to show you these homes on a walk. Neither brother lives there now, of course.
5. How were Thomas and Union different from each other? Did they look alike? How were they similar? How were they partners?
6. One business they had together was a cooperage. What did a cooper make?
7. Why do you think their warehouse was on the banks of the Ohio River?
8. The steamboat was a new invention at the time the Bethell brothers lived. They were used often to bring passengers and goods to Newburgh and many other places. At times 20 or more steamboats docked at Newburgh each day. They were large and used steam power to turn their paddle wheels. Research steamboats. Try drawing a picture of a paddle wheeler on the Ohio River.
9. The brothers mention a man called 'Stovepipe Johnson'. He surprised the town of Newburgh during the Civil War. Do you recall how he did that? Part of that surprise explains why he is called 'Stovepipe'. Explain how he got his nickname.
10. Union Bethell's home had a name... 'Wake Robin'. That is an interesting name. Why do you think it was named 'Wake Robin'? What name would you like to give your home?

11. The brothers worked together in their work. Why do you think it is a good thing to work with a partner?

12. The Bethell brothers worked very hard and also used their heads to get ahead. They were successful in their businesses and served in the local, state and national military. It was important to them that they also gave back to the community of Newburgh. Their businesses provided jobs to Newburgh families and they served in the town government. They set a good example for us to follow. As you get older it is important to give help to others as the Bethell brother did. If you work hard as a student and in your family you too will have good stories to share with others as the Bethell brothers did. Try 'walking and talking' with someone in your family or classroom or neighborhood. Share your ideas and find a partner to work with to make your home, classroom and neighborhood a little better.