Paul Bunyan

larger than life lumberjack

Hi folks. My name's Paul Bunyan and I'm a lumberjack! They say I was the biggest baby ever born in the state of Maine. I don't know about that, but I was so big that I set off earthquakes in Maine. In fact, almost any move I made caused the earth to shake. So, my folks put my cradle in the ocean to protect the state. I ended up in Minnesota and I did just fine on my own. On a night that would have made a polar bear shiver, I went out in the freezing cold. All of a sudden, I heard a moaning sound under a huge snowdrift. I investigated, and to my surprise, I found a blue ox. "Come with me," I said picking up the ox, which was nearly as big as me! I took care of that ox and nursed it back to health. Babe the Blue Ox, as I called her, followed me everywhere. That's how I made my first friend. And a big friend she was! By the time Babe was full grown, the distance between her horns was 42 axe handles long. One day, I discovered that he could cut down a forest of trees with just a few swipes of my axe. In those days, people needed wood for their homes, and no one was thinking about saving trees. While they were out and about, the two of us leveled Kansas and Iowa, clearing out trees so the farmers there could raise crops. Since we could walk a mile in one step, this was only a week's work for us. Soon, we decided to start our own logging camp. Hiring lumberjacks to help us out was one of the best decisions we ever made. But it was a good thing I was a problem solver, because clever thinking was needed to feed and house thousands of men. Our chow table was so long that it took a week for a dish to get from one end to the other. The frying pan was the size of an ice-skating rink. And with all those thirsty men around, I had to dig out five big holes to fill with water so everyone would have enough to drink. Those waterholes are known as the Great Lakes today.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Paul Bunyan

Reading checkup

Name

1. Why did Paul leave Maine?

_____

_____

2. What made Paul Bunyan famous?

_____

_____

3. Why did Paul and Babe clear trees?

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. What is a lumberjack? _____

_____

_____

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

The Amazing Paul Bunyan

Paul was born in Maine, but his parents sent him off and he ended up in Minnesota.

Paul was a lumberjack.

Paul traveled with an ox named Babe. It's said they carved the Grand Canyon while dragging an axe behind them.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Fact or fiction

Name _____

This is a statue of Paul Bunyan in Maine. There are several statues of Paul Bunyan in the US. Why do you think this folk hero is so popular?

What was one event from the story that is an exaggeration?

1

Which event is most likely a fact?

2

Explain your thinking!

3

LIVEWORKSHEETS