

Unit 2, Lesson 4

Unit Title: Founders & Settlers

Task: Inferences & Evidence

Name _____

Text of Paul Harvey's 1978 "So God made a farmer" speech.

1 And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk cows, work all day in the fields, milk
2 cows again, eat supper and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board."
So God made a farmer.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to rustle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own
3 grandchild. Somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to wait
for lunch until his wife's done feeding the visiting ladies and tell the ladies to be sure and come back
real soon -- and mean it." So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt. And watch it die. Then dry
his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon
4 sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks and shoe
scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his forty-hour week by Tuesday noon,
then, paining from 'tractor back,' put in another seventy-two hours." So God made a farmer.

God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain
5 clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place.
So God made a farmer.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bails, yet gentle enough to tame
6 lambs and wean pigs and tend the pink-combed pullets, who will stop his mower for an hour to splint
the broken leg of a meadow lark." So God made a farmer.

It had to be somebody who'd plow deep and straight and not cut corners. Somebody to seed, weed,
feed, breed and rake and disc and plow and plant and tie the fleece and strain the milk and replenish
7 the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a five-mile drive to church. Somebody who'd bale
a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh and then sigh, and then reply
with smiling eyes when his son says that he wants to spend his life "doing what dad does."

8 So God made a farmer.