



Age Level:

Third grade and up

Subjects:

Art
 Math

Materials:

- Copies of the Log Cabin drawing to place around the room. Go over the grid lines with a red marker.
- 8 1/2 x 11-inch unlined paper, sharp pencils and NO RULERS until it's time to do the lettering.

Learning Objectives:

- To increase the ability to observe detail
- To provide practice in how to use a grid

Design Professional:

The activity "Let's Face It - The Eyes are in the Middle!" should precede this activity. If time allows, introduce it at the end of the session in which the students do the face drawing.

Teacher:

If there isn't time for the design professional to introduce this exercise, you should go ahead and do it before the next session. Don't hurry this drawing, because it is the basis for all the others and success is important.

Presenting the Activity:

Suggested dialogue:

"Since this is the first drawing of a building we have done, please listen for the instructions before you draw any lines. We will be doing many more drawings of buildings in this manner, so we would like to have you get off to a good start.

"After awhile, you will find that you have improved so much you won't need the grid anymore. However, for now it will be important that you take time and look very carefully at where the lines of the cabin are in relation to the grid lines. We all have a bad habit of going ahead and drawing what we think we see without checking to see

what it really looks like. The most important part of doing a good drawing is to look carefully to see just what is there and where it is in relation to the other things in the drawing.

"Another thing that gets in the way of observing is using a ruler. For all of the drawings DO NOT USE A RULER. You may use your ruler for lettering only.

"First, notice that some lines are heavier than others. Can you think of a reason why they are that way? It is because the heavy lines are the ones you are to draw first. The lighter lines are the details that come later. Remember, when you drew the face, you made an oval outline of the whole face first. What do you think you should draw first on the cabin? Right, the outline.

"Let's do the easy ones first. Notice that the top of the roof tuns along the top grid line. Notice also that it goes a little way beyond the side grid lines, the same distance on each side. The ground is on the bottom gridline represented by a straight line at the door where there was probably a slab of wood or stone. The rest of the ground is shown with ruffle squiggles every so often. What do you think they represent? Yes, that is the way that you can show there is dirt or grass."

Check the students' drawings before proceeding to the next step.

"Now the lower edge of the roof is going to be a little harder because it is not right on the middle grid line. A roof has thickness so it will look like three lines, the shingles and the roof rafters.

"On the side grid line, make three little marks where you think each of these lines should be. Then go to the other side and make three marks there. You could use your pencil or your finger to help you get them in the same place on both sides so you will have a nice straight roof line. Draw lines between each of your marks and extend them beyond the side grid lines as you did for the top roof line. Now it will be easy to draw the sides of the cabin on the side grid lines and then the sides of the roof where it overhangs the side walls.

"Next draw the outline of the chimney. Does it go higher than the top of the roof? Don't put in the stones now, though, they are details to come later.



“Now look at the top of the windows and the door. Where are they located? Yes, on the center grid line. What part of them are you going to draw now? Right, just the outline. What other grid line is the door on? Yes, the center of the door is on the center line, and there is the same amount of the door on one side of the line as there is on the other. Make some marks on one side at the top and bottom, and then use your pencil or finger to measure where the other side of the door should go. Now join your marks. Use the same technique for putting in the windows so you will get them the same on both sides and the same distance up from the bottom.

“Now you are ready for the details. Probably the best place to start is with the logs. Notice the first one down from the roof goes right along the center gridline, over the windows and the doors. Next put in the log line at the bottom of the window. Count the lines between these two lines.

“Isn't it nice that there are four above the bottom of the window and four below? Make marks to help you space these evenly on each side and then draw them in.

“What do you think those funny little circles are at the corners? Put your hands in front of you in a kind of triangle shape with your fingers interlocking at the tips. Turn your hands to the outside. See how the ends off your fingers look like little circles? The logs are interlocked so that the cabin will hold together just the same way your fingers are. Did you notice the little circles of your finger tips are only every other one? The fingers on the other hand form

straight lines. So start at the edge of the roof with the first circle for the end of a log. Skip the next one and then continue to draw a circle every other log on down to the bottom.

“Next, put in the stones for the chimney and the lines of the shingles on the roof. In sketching, it is not necessary to draw all the lines, just indicate a few at the top and bottom or on each side.

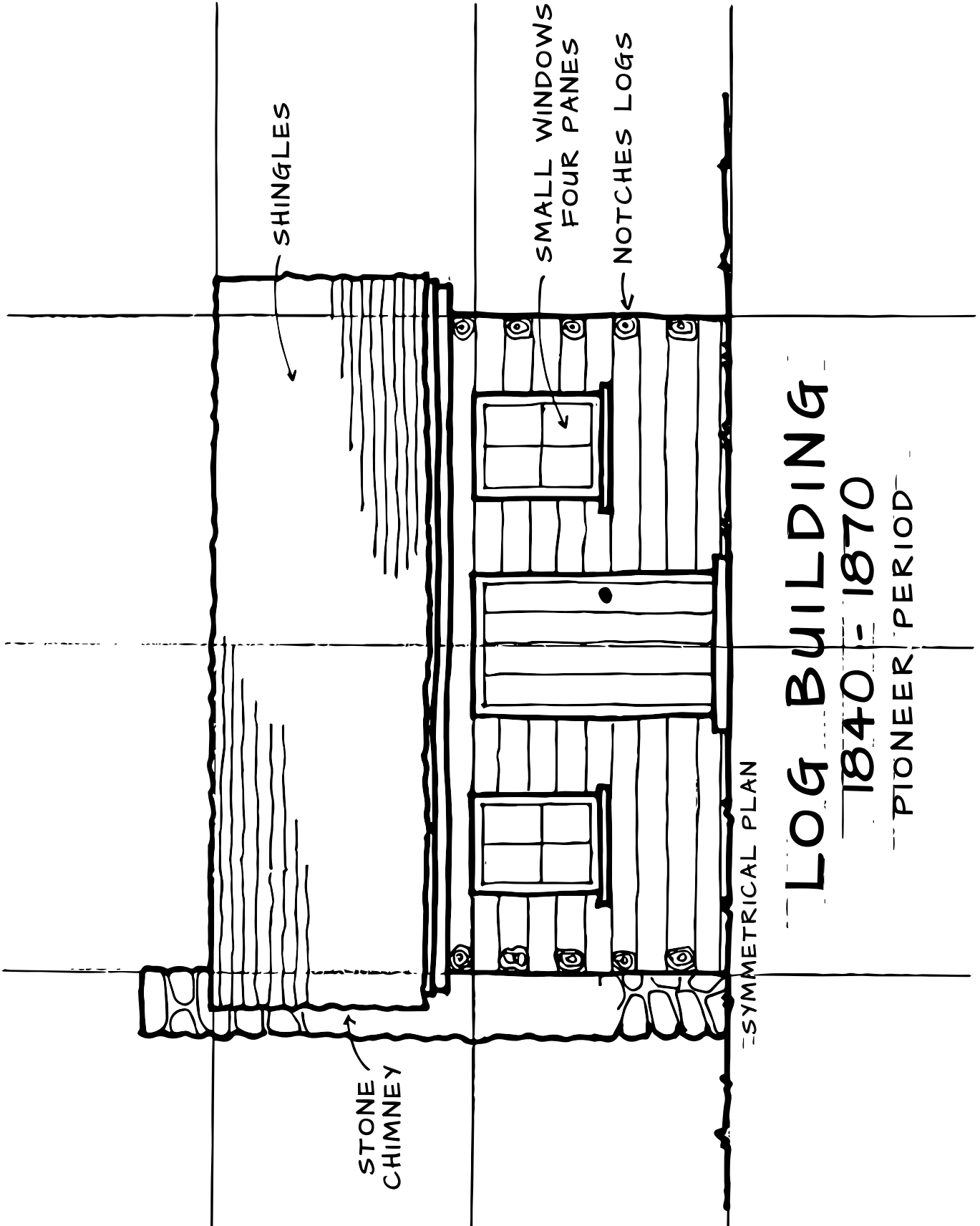
“The doors were usually made of slabs of wood, so you will see lines where the wood was joined.

“If the windows had glass it would be in small panes, so add the lines that represent the wood that divided the panes of glass.

“Now you need to put a title on your building, and since we will be talking a lot about dates, put the dates on it also. Why is 1840 the first date? (Few people were in Oregon before the arrival of the first wagon train at that time.) Cabins are actually still being built today, but 1870 was about the end of them in pioneer times. By then the people were ready to build their “real” house.

“Architects are very careful about the way they do lettering—they don't call it ‘printing.’ They always measure and draw guidelines. Now you may use your ruler.”

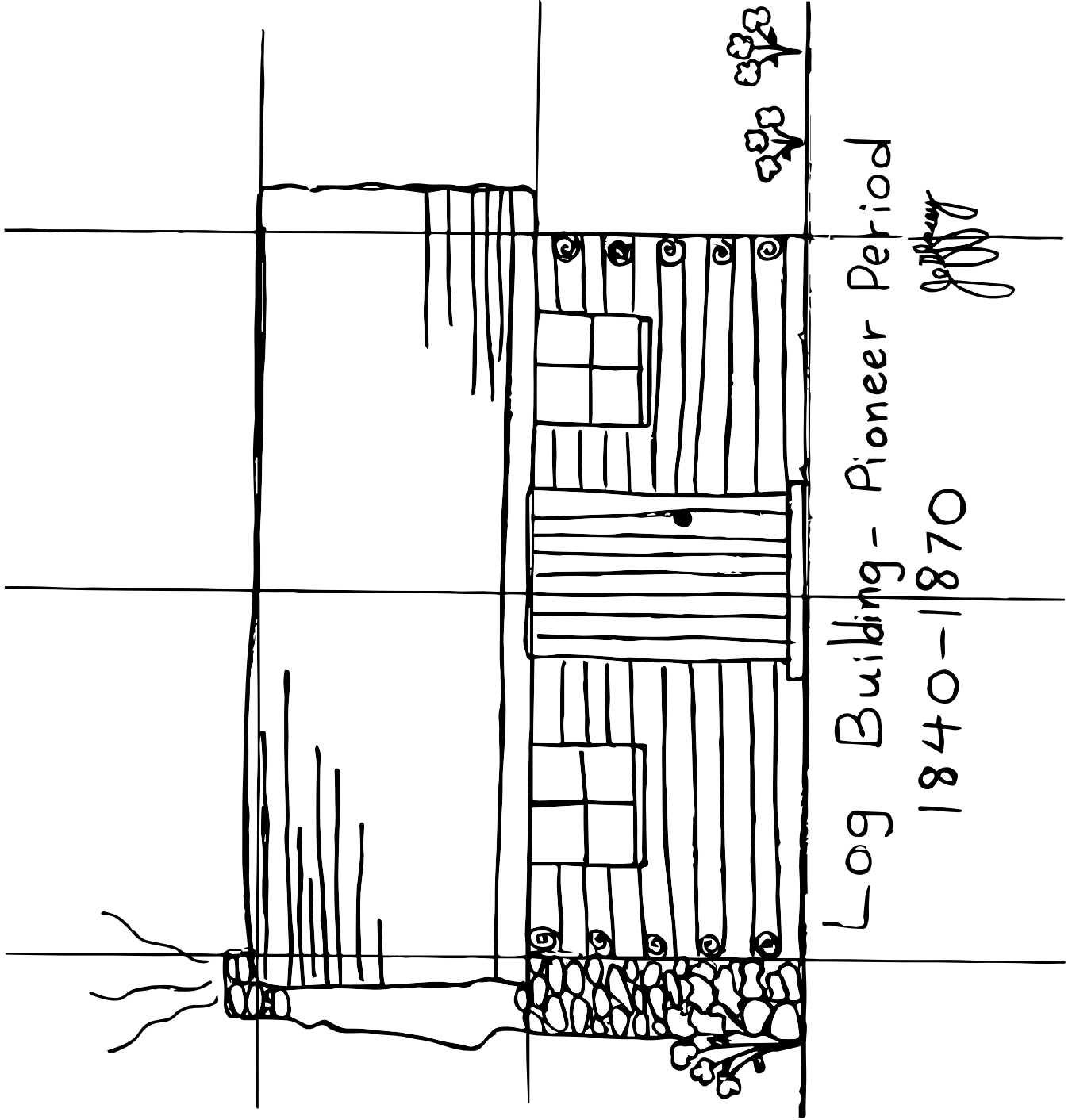
(Refer to the activity, “How to Draw Straight Lines and Letter”)



LOG BUILDING

1840 - 1870

PIONEER PERIOD



Log Building - Pioneer Period

Jeffrey

1840-1870