

# Take a Journey with **OLIVER K. WOODMAN**

## **ACTIVITY GUIDE**

*These activities are suitable for children in kindergarten through third grade, and for groups of two or more (including one adult and one or more children).*

*They are intended for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, and by homeschoolers.*

*Some are short-term projects, which can be completed in an hour or an afternoon, while others are suitable for extended study.*

*Consider the ideas and select those activities that best suit your audience and time constraints.*



## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Geography**

- Follow Oliver's trail on the U.S. map. What direction is he traveling during each leg of the journey?
- Plot your location on a map.
- Learn more about the cities in the book, and the cities on Oliver's journey to Los Angeles.
- Refer to the Track Oliver's Journey map activity included in this guide. This may be reproduced for each child in the group to use individually, or it can be enlarged for use by the whole group. If done individually using the blank map worksheet, a larger atlas map will be needed to pinpoint each city.

### **Discussion Ideas**

#### **Journeys:**

- What is a journey?
- Are there other words that mean the same thing?
- Talk about journeys you have taken or read about. Write about a journey, real or imagined—a family summer vacation or a magic carpet ride, a trip around the world or an adventure in your own backyard.

#### **Travel/Transportation:**

- What modes of transportation does Oliver use in the book?
- Give examples of other ways to travel that aren't shown in the book.

#### **Your Neighborhood/Local History:**

- If you had found Oliver sitting by the side of the road, what would you show him in your town? Where would you take him, and what would you do? Write a postcard to Uncle Ray describing your visit with Oliver.
- What would you have been able to show him fifty or one hundred years ago?
- What makes your town unique? What makes it similar to other places?

#### **Family Relationships:**

- Uncle Ray and Tameka live far from each other. Do you have relatives who live far away? Point out where they live on the map. Have you visited them? Is it easy to travel to their home? Write a letter to a relative you miss.

## WRITING ACTIVITIES

- It's not unusual for letters to tell the story in a book. Discuss the elements of a formal letter (the heading, greeting, body, closing, and signature). Discuss how the style of e-mail letters differs from that of traditional letters on paper. Discuss the different writing styles used for postcards and letters. When would you send a postcard? A letter?
- Start a "pen pal" program with another class, library, bookstore, or family.
- Write letters/cards to someone in the next stop on Oliver's journey, or write letters "home" to let us know how the trip is going. Our address is:

**Oliver's Friends at Harcourt**  
Children's Books Marketing  
525 B Street, Suite 1900  
San Diego, California 92101

- License-plate abbreviations:  
People sometimes request special license plates for their cars to express something that's important to them. In the book, Uncle Ray has a customized license plate that says, I ♥ WUD. What does that mean? Does anyone you know have a special license plate? What do the letters and numbers stand for? See how many plates you can decipher on the enclosed worksheet. Make up some license-plate messages of your own.

## ART

- Create your own stationery. Will it be card or letter size? What color? How will you decorate it? (Materials: colored paper, card stock, markers, glue, sequins, glitter, scissors, stencils, envelopes)
- Design your own postcard to remind you of your visit with Oliver, or to show Uncle Ray what your town is like. (Materials: 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 unruled index cards, crayons or markers)
- Build your own Oliver! Copy the pattern enclosed onto brown construction paper or white paper. Cut out the pieces, then connect them with brass fasteners. Have fun decorating or coloring your Oliver!



## MATH

- What is the distance between the start (Rock Hill, South Carolina) and finish (Redcrest, California) of Oliver's journey? How many miles did he actually travel? Which distance is larger? By how many miles? (Estimate the distances using mental math, then determine the actual distances.)

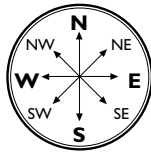
Answers:

- Rock Hill, South Carolina, to Redcrest, California: approximately 2,951 miles
- Oliver's total journey: 3,675 miles
  - Rock Hill, South Carolina, to Memphis, Tennessee: 656 miles
  - Memphis, Tennessee, to Forrest City, Arkansas: 48 miles
  - Forrest City, Arkansas, to Fort Smith, Arkansas: 246 miles
  - Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: 183 miles
  - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Dallas, Texas: 206 miles
  - Dallas, Texas, to Amarillo, Texas: 463 miles
  - Amarillo, Texas, to Panhandle, Texas: 28 miles
  - Panhandle, Texas, to Albuquerque, New Mexico: 317 miles
  - Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Salt Lake City, Utah: 620 miles
  - Salt Lake City, Utah, to Eureka, Nevada: 318 miles
  - Eureka, Nevada, to Reno, Nevada: 243 miles
  - Reno, Nevada, to Rough and Ready, California: 92 miles
  - Rough and Ready, California, to Redcrest, California: 255 miles
- How many stops did Oliver make? How many people did he travel with?
- What shapes is Oliver made of? Create paper shapes and identify them as you construct your own Oliver. (Refer to the Build Your Own Oliver art project.)

# TRACK OLIVER'S JOURNEY!

## TRACK OLIVER'S TRIP BY DOING THE FOLLOWING:

1. On the outline map of the United States, put a **1** on Rock Hill, South Carolina.
2. Put a **2** on Memphis, Tennessee.
3. On Forrest City, Arkansas, put a **3**.
4. Find Fort Smith, Arkansas, and put a **4** on it.



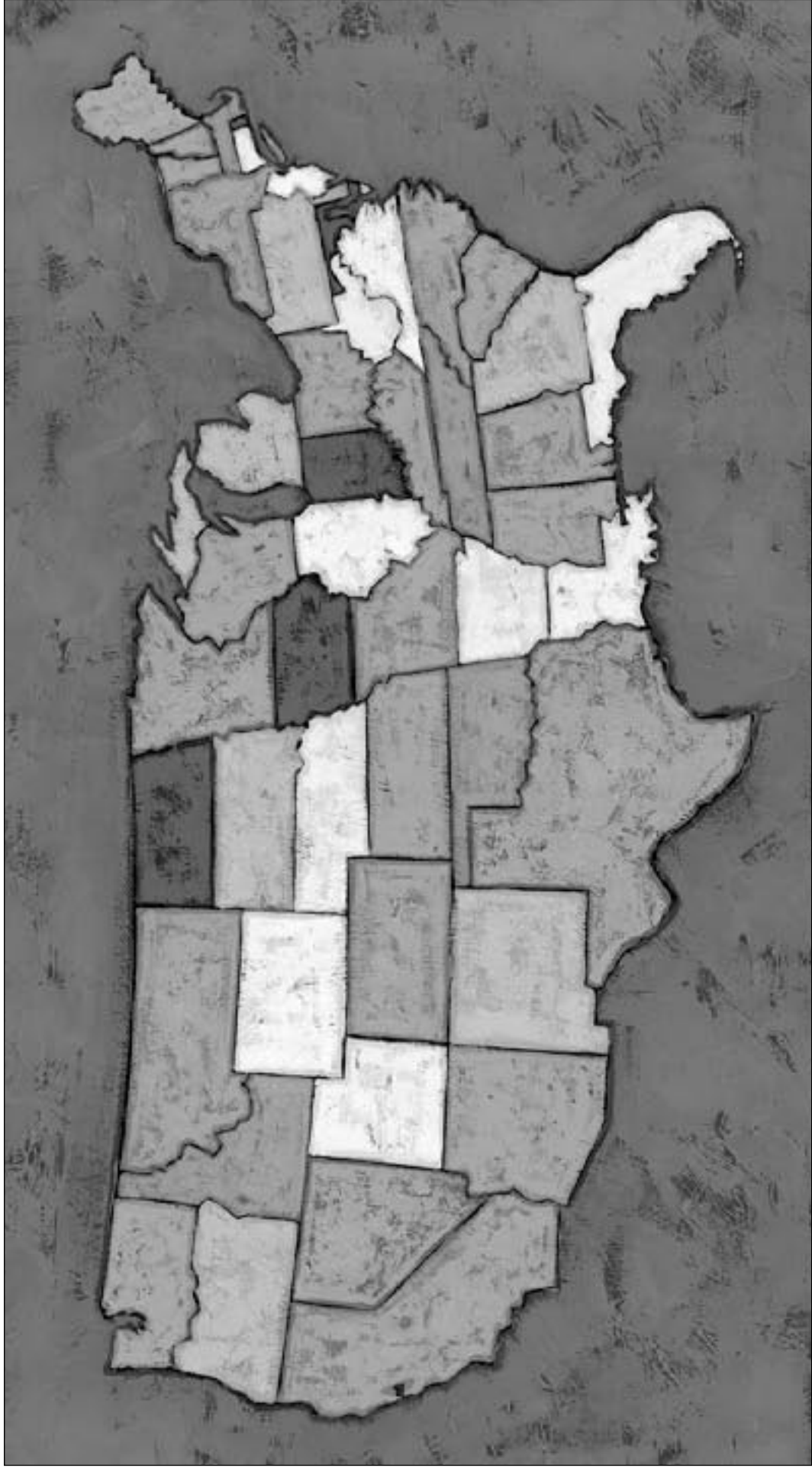
## USING THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS, DRAW OLIVER'S PATH ON YOUR MAP.

5. Starting at the Arkansas border, go *west* to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
6. Then go *south* to Dallas, Texas.
7. From Dallas, go *northwest* to Amarillo, then continue *northeast* to Panhandle, Texas.
8. Leaving Texas, travel *west* to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## FOR THE NEXT PART OF OLIVER'S TRIP, DRAW SYMBOLS TO MARK HIS PROGRESS.

9. At Salt Lake City, Utah, draw a U.S. flag for the Fourth of July parade.
10. Draw a cowboy hat for the rodeo at Eureka, Nevada.
11. At Reno, Nevada, draw a \$—for money in the casinos!
12. Draw a bear and a tree in the redwood forest at Rough and Ready, California.
13. Draw a tent to show that Oliver camped at Redcrest, California.
14. Oliver then returned home to Rock Hill, South Carolina, where he was welcomed with a ticker-tape parade. Draw your own symbol to mark the end of Oliver's trip.
15. Create a map key that explains the symbols.

# **OLIVER'S JOURNEY ACROSS AMERICA**



# SAY WHAT?

HOW MANY OF THESE CUSTOMIZED LICENSE PLATES CAN YOU TRANSLATE?

CA R BST

\_\_\_\_\_

CU L8R

\_\_\_\_\_

JRNY US

\_\_\_\_\_

GD NYT

\_\_\_\_\_

50 ST8S

\_\_\_\_\_

ZIPN BY

\_\_\_\_\_

TRVLN MN

\_\_\_\_\_

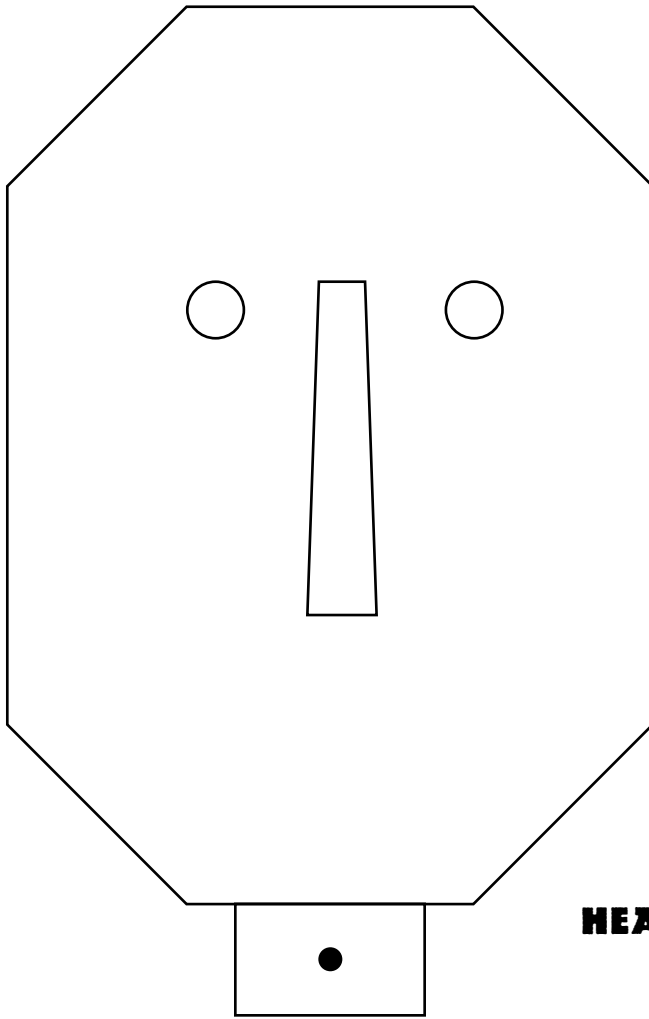
Key to customized license plates: 1. California or Bust 2. See you later 3. Journey the United States 4. Good night 5. Fifty States 6. Zippin' by 7. Travelin' Man

# **KEY TO CUSTOMIZED LICENSE PLATES:**

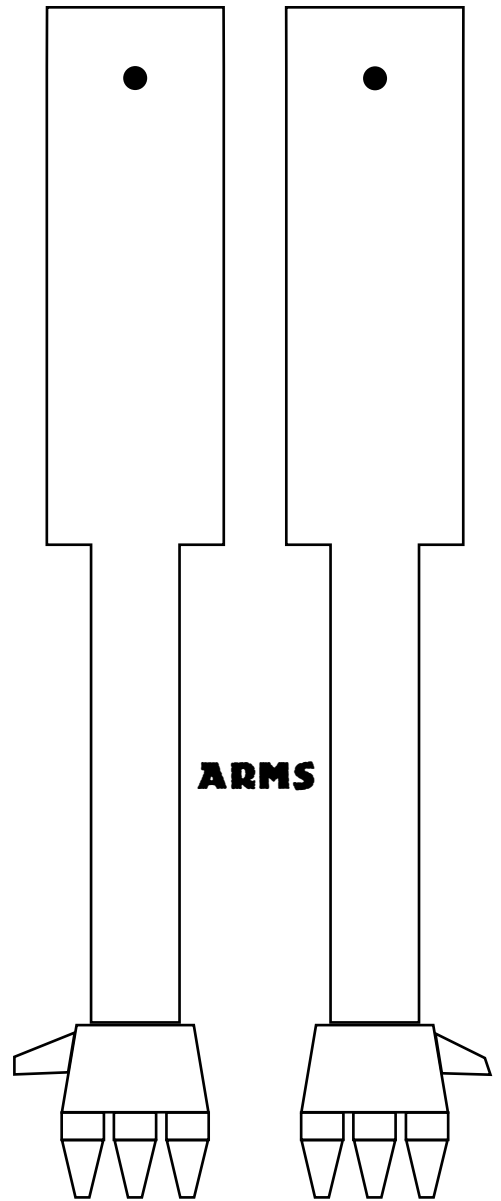
1. California or Bust
2. See you later
3. Journey the United States
4. Goodnight
5. 50 States
6. Zippin' by
7. Travelin' Man

# BUILD YOUR OWN OLIVER!

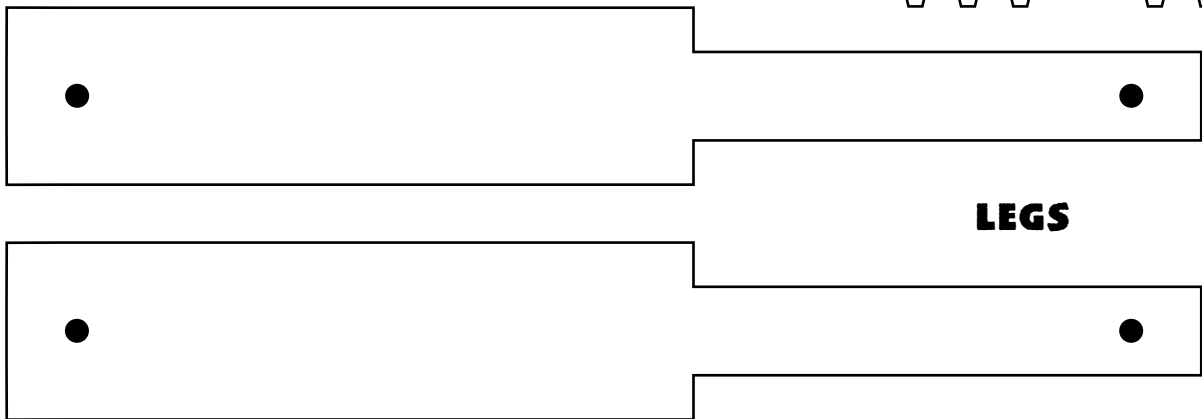
Directions: Cut out each piece and assemble brass fasteners.



**HEAD**



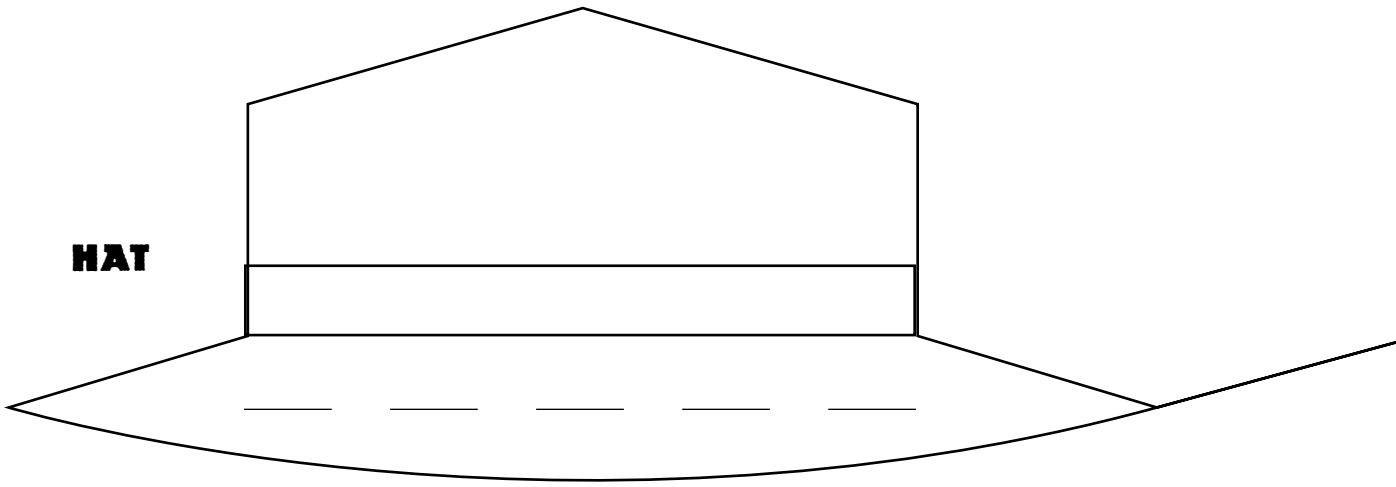
**ARMS**



**LEGS**



**FEET**



Cut on the dotted line,  
so Oliver can wear his hat!

