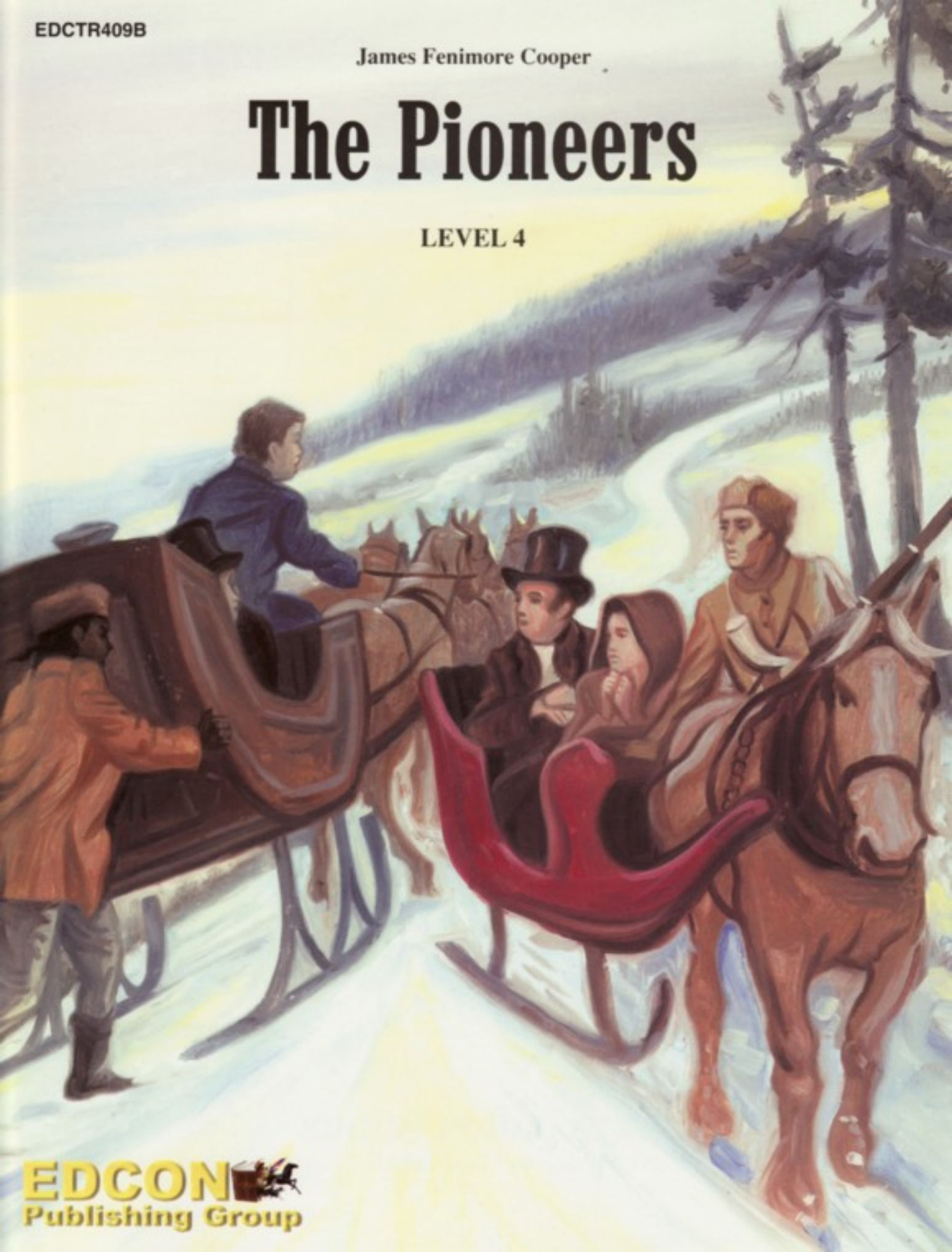


EDCTR409B

James Fenimore Cooper

# The Pioneers

LEVEL 4



**EDCON**   
Publishing Group

## WORDS USED

Story 81

Story 82

Story 83

Story 84

Story 85

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### KEY WORDS

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buck  
leather  
reins  
rifle  
settler  
stocking

accident  
area  
hut  
servant  
shoulder  
wound

friendship  
future  
God  
guests  
mistress  
pray

action  
peace  
purpose  
settle  
sheriff  
turkey

claim  
reminded  
skill  
spent  
sugar  
suggested

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### NECESSARY WORDS

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ambush  
cloak  
concern  
descend  
quarry  
venison

bullet  
herb  
instrument  
minister  
treatment

forbid  
fuel  
grace  
service

appoint  
guilty  
lawyer  
responsibility  
sermon

annual  
assistant  
click  
sap



# A Cold Winter's Day



*Judge Temple fires his rifle at a buck.*

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
  2. Look at the picture.
  3. Read the sentence under the picture.
  4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
  5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that

- a. the Judge did not know how to use a rifle.
- b. the Judge's rifle did not work.
- c. the Judge killed a squirrel with his first shot.
- d. the Judge tried to kill a buck.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.*

**Now read the story.**

Read to find out what Judge Temple shot with his rifle.



# A Cold Winter's Day

In New York, on a cold Christmas Eve day in 1793, a sleigh moved slowly up the narrow mountain road. Judge Marmaduke Temple and his daughter Elizabeth rode in the sleigh pulled by bay horses. The Judge wore a heavy coat edged in fur. A cap with sides pulled down covered his ears. His daughter was bundled up in a man's cloak. Suddenly, loud sounds came from the forest.

The Judge called to the black driver, "Hold up, Aggy. The Leather-stocking has put his hounds into the hills. This clear day they have started their game." He looked up the road and pointed. "There are deer track a few steps over there." The driver pulled on the reins to stop the horses.

Temple got out of the sleigh and took a rifle from among the trunks in the back. A fine buck ran in the path near him. The Judge put his gun up and fired. The deer dashed forward. The Judge fired the rifle again, still not hitting the buck. The sound of another shot rang out. The buck flew into the air. Then another shot sounded through the forest. When the buck fell back to earth, two men appeared from behind the pines.

The Judge cried, "Natty, had I known you were in ambush, I should have not fired on this quarry."

"No, no, Judge," returned the old hunter, stepping out of the pines. "You used your gun only to warm your nose this cold day. Your gun would not have killed this quarry, even from an ambush."

The old hunter, Nathaniel (Natty) Bumppo, called Leather-stocking by the settlers, was a tall man. He wore a cap made of

fox skin over his sandy-colored hair. His deer-skin coat was belted close to his body. He wore long, leather stockings. These leather stockings were clipped to his pants.

Judge Temple and the old man talked about who killed the deer. The young hunter with Leather-stocking pointed out four holes in a tree. These holes were made by the Judge's rifle.

"And the fifth?" the Judge asked.

The young man opened his cloak. Blood ran from his side. Judge Temple showed concern by offering to take the young hunter to the doctor in the village.

The young man refused to go. Judge Temple then offered to buy the deer, but the man shook his head and replied, "I have need of the venison."

"This money would buy lots of venison," said the Judge.

Elizabeth now showed her concern, too. She wanted to take the young man to the village for help. When he finally said he would go with them, Leather-stocking refused to go.

The horses drew the sleigh over the mountain toward the village. A lake, locked in cold for the winter, looked like a snowy plain. The village of Templeton stood at the foot of the lake. Judge Temple's large home of stone towered over the settlers' homes. Smoke poured out from the chimneys of his house.

As they made their way alongside a quarry, a four-man sleigh came fast up the mountain. The two sleighs were close upon each other before either was seen.

The four-man sleigh, drawn by four horses, drew nearer. Its driver shouted, "Draw up in the quarry or I shall never be able

to pass you!"

Both drivers stopped their horses. The four men inside the large sleigh got out and greeted the Temples. When the two sleigh drivers tried to turn the four-man sleigh, it leaned over the edge of the mountain road.

The Judge exclaimed, "They will all be killed!" Elizabeth gave a loud cry. The young man traveling with them got out of the sleigh. He took hold of the reins. He turned the horses around so they could descend to the village.

The driver of the large sleigh was Richard Jones. He was Aggy's master. Jones saw the buck on Mr. Temple's sleigh. He told the group about his own killing of a deer.

Aggy spoke up. "Natty Bumppo fired the other gun. You know, sir, all the people say Natty kill him."

Jones said, "They lie. . ." He spoke to the black driver, Aggy, and reminded him of *his* side of the story. Aggy was afraid of his master, so he listened to his master tell about his shooting.

"Well, well, Duke will say no more about my deer. The Judge fired both barrels. He hit nothing but a poor young man who was behind a pine tree."

The Judge left Aggy on the mountain to help Jones fix his sleigh. Marmaduke made room for the others in his sleigh. Monsieur Le Quoi, Major Hartmann, and Mr. Grant got into the sleigh.

Judge Temple then took the reins of his sleigh to descend the mountain to Templeton. After his sleigh was fixed, Jones took the reins and began to descend the mountain, too, with sleigh bells ringing.

# A Cold Winter's Day

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

- This story opens on
    - a cold Easter morning.
    - Thanksgiving Day.
    - Christmas Eve day.
    - Elizabeth's birthday.
  - What were the sounds that Temple heard that made him tell Aggy to stop the sleigh?
    - Running Deer
    - Running Horses
    - Leather-stocking's hounds
    - Gun shots
  - When Temple saw deer tracks,
    - he took out his rifle.
    - he took out his bow and arrow.
    - he covered the tracks to keep the deer safe.
    - he sent Aggy into the woods to kill the deer.
  - Natty Bumppo was called Leather-stocking because
    - he liked the name.
    - he wore leather shoes.
    - he kept leather in his stockings.
    - he wore leather stockings.
  - Judge Temple had missed the buck, but he shot
    - Leather-stocking.
    - the young man who was with Leather-stocking.
    - a buffalo.
    - a goat.
- Preview Answer:**  
d. the Judge tried to kill a buck.
- First the Judge fired at a buck. Then Natty and a young man appeared from behind some trees. Next,
      - the buck flew into the air after being hit.
      - Leather-stocking's friend pointed out four holes in a tree.
      - Leather-stocking's friend showed that he had been shot.
      - Abby took off with the sleigh.
  - Who was driving the four-man sleigh that came fast up the mountain?
    - Barnaby Jones
    - Tom Jones
    - Marmaduke
    - Aggy's master
  - Old Leather-stocking kills animals for
    - fun.
    - food.
    - their fur.
    - their food and fur.
  - Another name for this story could be
    - "A Young Hunter is Shot."
    - "Sleigh Bells."
    - "The Hunt."
    - "Going Home."
  - This story is mainly about
    - life in the mountains.
    - the dangers of hunting.
    - how a young man came to be shot.
    - why Abby was afraid of his master.

Check your answers with the Key on page 67.

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