

# Paul Bunyan's Pancakes



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Green Words and \*Challenge Words:

1

\* **used** (1)      **backwoods** (2)      **cute** (3)      **thawed** (3)  
**branch** (1)      **cabins** (2)      \* **animal** (3)      \* **loved** (4)  
\* **huge** (1)      **settlers** (2)

2

**sawmill** (5)      **spun** (7)      **flour** (8)      **steamboat** (8)  
**pancakes** (6)      **mixed** (8)

3

\* **bacon** (9)      **squirted** (10)      \* **table** (11)      **tune** (11)  
\* **shovels** (10)      \* **golden** (10)      **mules** (11)      \* **leftover** (12)

Red Words to practice every day:

**grew** (4)      **enough** (6)      **ready** (11)      **nothing** (12)  
**breakfast** (6)      **poured** (8)

Challenge Words are starred (\*).  
Explain how underlined words are used in the story.



Paul Bunyan was a HUGE man. He was taller than the tallest tree. He used a tree branch to brush his teeth. He brushed his thick, black beard with a small pine tree.

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**Why did Paul Bunyan brush his beard with a tree branch?** *[A regular brush would be too small. He needed something as big as a tree branch.]*



Paul needed lots of room. So he made a camp in the backwoods.

Paul's job was to cut trees into logs. He was so big, he could cut ten trees at one time! The settlers used the logs to make cabins.

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**Why did Paul live in the backwoods?** *[He needed lots of room.]*

**How did being a giant help Paul do his job faster?** *[He could cut ten trees at one time.]*



One day, snow fell as he was cutting trees. Paul saw an animal frozen in the deep snow. He took it back to camp to warm it by the fire.

It was a cute baby ox! It thawed out, but it stayed blue from the cold. So Paul named the ox Blue Babe.

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**What did Paul find in the snow?** *[Paul found a baby ox.]*

**Why was the ox blue?** *[He was so cold that he turned blue.]*



Blue Babe grew very, very HUGE, just like Paul Bunyan. He was so big that his back feet were too far away to be seen! Ten ax-handles could fit between his horns. Blue Babe loved to help Paul.



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How was the ox like Paul? *[They were both huge.]*

How do you know that Babe was a nice animal? *[He loved to help Paul.]*



Blue Babe pulled the logs to the river and pushed them in. The logs floated to a sawmill. The settlers got the logs at the sawmill.

But the settlers needed even more logs. So Paul asked one hundred men to help him.

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**Paul needed to cut many more logs. What did he do?** *[He asked one hundred men to help him.]*



Paul needed to feed all the men who came to help. He decided to make lots of pancakes for breakfast. But how could Paul make enough pancakes to feed one hundred men?

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- **Make a Prediction:** How could Paul make enough pancakes to feed one hundred men? (T-P-S) Have the students support their predictions.



First, Paul made a huge, flat pan. Blue Babe pulled it to camp. He dragged it up a hill.

But the pan rolled down the hill! It began to spin like a big penny. It spun so hard that it dug a deep hole in the hill.

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**What happened to the pan that Paul made?** *[It rolled down the hill.]*

**What happened when the pan landed?** *[It dug a deep hole in the hill.]*



Next, Paul made a fire in the hole to heat the pan. While the fire heated the pan, Paul mixed the pancake batter. He poured one hundred bags of flour into a lake. He added two hundred eggs! A big steamboat mixed the batter. It steamed back and forth all night long.



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Where did Paul build a fire? *[Paul built a fire in the hole in the ground.]*

What did he use to make the batter? *[one hundred bags of flour and two hundred eggs]*

What mixed the batter? *[A steamboat mixed the batter.]*



At last, the batter was mixed and the pan was hot.  
Now they needed to grease the huge pan.

Paul gave the men cubes of bacon fat. They stuck the fat on the bottom of their boots. Then they skated back and forth on the hot pan! This is how they greased the huge pan.

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**How did the men grease the pan?** *[They stuck bacon fat on their feet and skated on the pan.]*

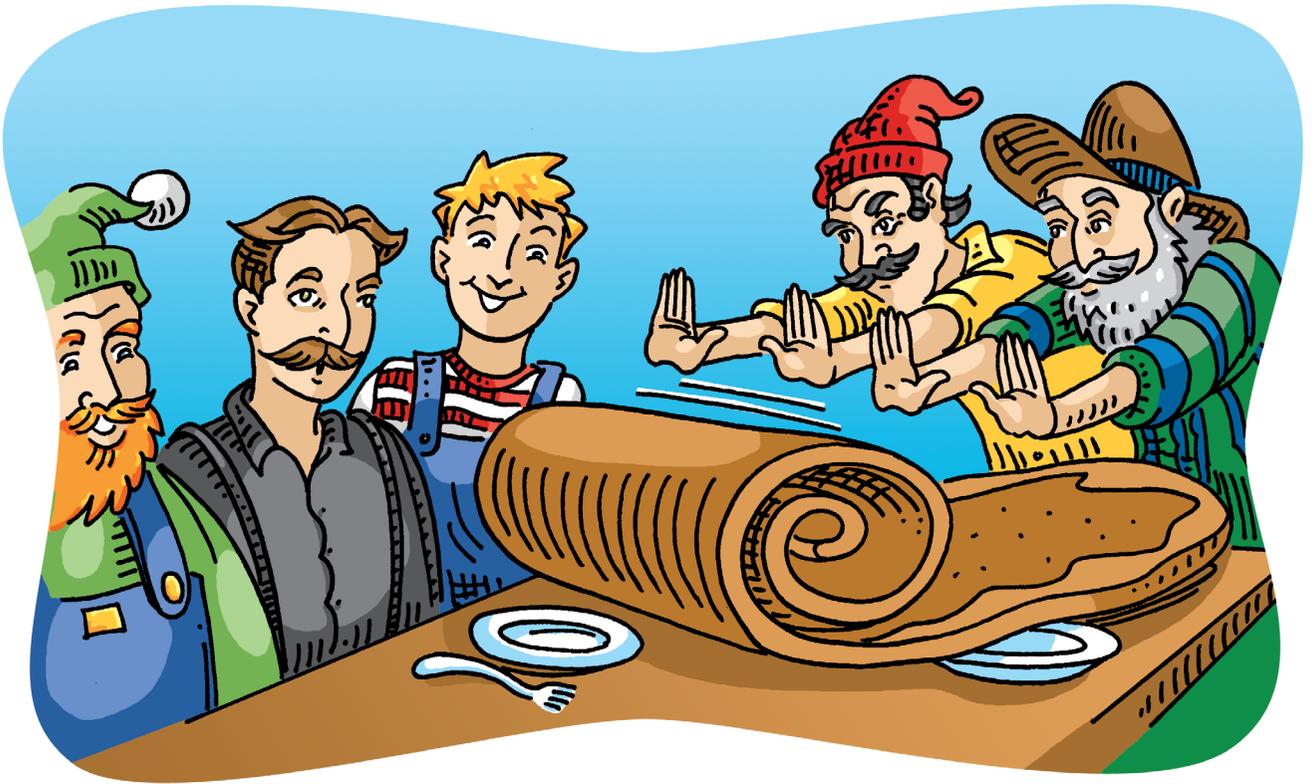


Then some of the men got a fire hose. They squirted the batter from the lake onto the hot pan.

The pancakes began to cook. The men used their shovels to flip the pancakes. Then they flipped the golden pancakes onto a cart.

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**How did the men get the batter into the pan?** *[They squirted it through a fire hose.]*  
**“Flip” means to turn over. How did they turn over the pancakes?** *[They used a shovel to flip them.]*



A team of mules dragged the pancake cart down the middle of a huge table. Two men rolled the big pancakes onto the men's plates.

The men liked the pancakes! They sang a happy tune as they ate. Then they were ready to help Paul cut logs.

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What did the men do as they ate? *[They sang a happy tune.]*



The men gave the leftover pancakes to Blue Babe.  
You can bet nothing was left after that!

Then Blue Babe helped. At last, they finished the  
job. The settlers had their logs. And Paul had a place to  
make pancakes!

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What job did Paul and his helpers finish? *[They got the logs the settlers needed.]*

1

Model: **Why did Paul brush his teeth with a tree branch?**

*[Answers will vary: Paul was taller than the tallest tree. / Paul was so huge that no toothbrush was big enough.]*

1. **Why was Blue Babe a good friend for Paul?**

*[Blue Babe loved to help Paul. / Blue Babe was huge like Paul.]*

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

Paul Bunyan was a [huge] man.

thawed

The baby ox [thawed] out by the fire.

huge

Blue Babe [loved] to help Paul.

loved

2

Model: **What was one funny thing that Paul did to mix the pancakes?**

*[Answers may vary: Paul used 200 eggs. / A steamboat stirred the batter.]*

1. **Why did Paul mix so much pancake batter?**

*[Paul had to feed 100 men.]*

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

Settlers got their logs at the [sawmill].

A. steamboat

B. cabins

C. sawmill

3

Model: **How did Paul Bunyan's men grease the pancake pan?**

*[The men stuck cubes of bacon fat on the bottom of their boots and skated in the pan.]*

1. **How did Paul get the pancake batter into the hot pan?**

*[The men used a fire hose.]*

2. Circle the right answer.

After breakfast, Paul Bunyan's men were ready to work.

This means they:

A. were too tired to work

B. were glad to work

C. wanted to read books

Reading Roots, Level 4  
**Paul Bunyan's Pancakes**

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READING PROGRAM

Reading Roots Shared Stories were developed under the direction of Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation Family of Programs.

Success for All Foundation is a nonprofit education reform organization that develops and disseminates research-based reading and math programs for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary and middle schools. These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

Illustrations for this book were colored digitally by Jason Lego.

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