

# *Searching for* **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 Imogene's trail on the U.S. map. What direction is she 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 Imogene's journey across the United States.
- Refer to the *Track Imogene'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 map in an atlas 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 Imogene 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 Imogene sitting by the side of the road, what would you show her in your town? Where would you take her, and what would you do? Write a postcard to Paige Hall describing your visit with Imogene.
- What would you have been able to show her 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 homes? 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.
- 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 show Paige Hall what your town is like. (Materials: 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 unruled index cards, crayons or markers)
- Build your own Imogene! 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 Imogene!



# IMOGENE'S TRAVEL JOURNAL

GET READY FOR A ROAD TRIP YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

September 15  
New York City, NY



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September 23  
Harrisburg, PA



October 1  
Chicago, IL



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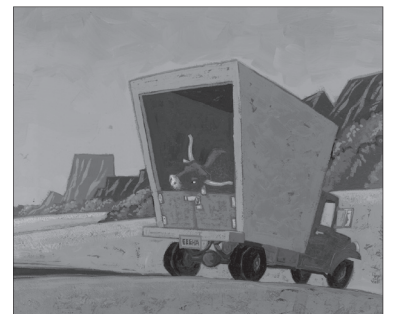
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October 17  
Green River, WY



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October 23  
Seattle, WA



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November 1  
Eagle River, AK



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November 5  
Top of the World, Barrow, AK



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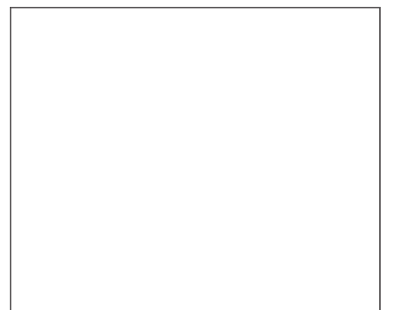
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What if Imogene visited your town? Pretend you are Imogene and write a journal entry to describe what she would see. Then draw your own picture in the box.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_



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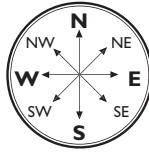
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# TRACK IMOGENE'S JOURNEY!

## TRACK IMOGENE'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 New York City, New York.
3. On Hershey, Pennsylvania, put a **3**.
4. Find Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and put a **4**.

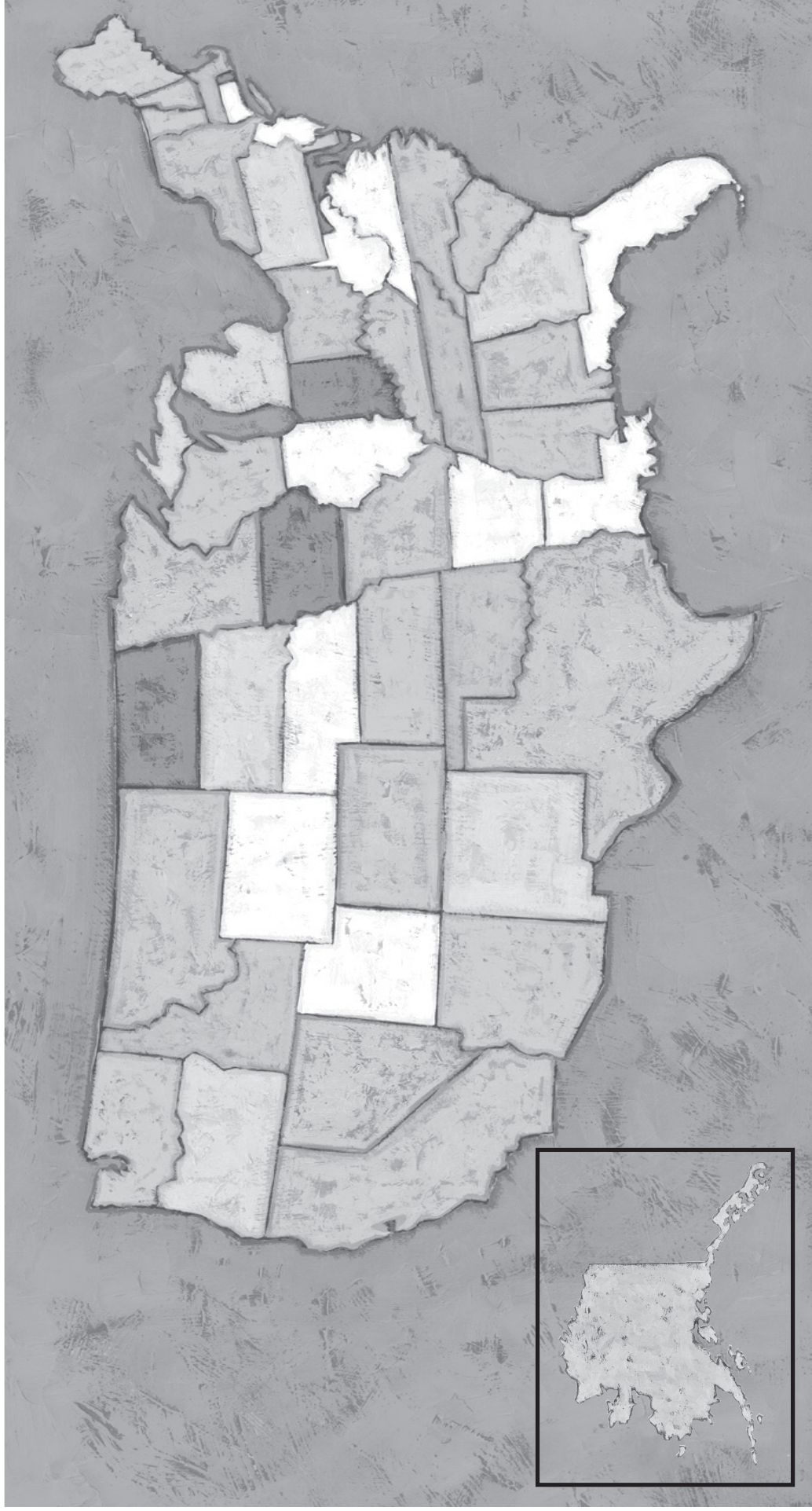


## USING THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS, DRAW IMOGENE'S PATH ON YOUR OUTLINE MAP.

5. Starting at Chicago, Illinois, go *northwest* to Albert Lea, Minnesota.
6. Then go *east* to Rochester, Minnesota.
7. From Rochester, go *west* to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, then go *southwest* to Green River, Wyoming.
8. Now change directions and travel *northwest* to Seattle, Washington.
9. For the next part of Imogene's trip, she goes to Alaska. Look at a map of North America and find Alaska. Starting at Seattle, Washington, what direction would you go to get to Alaska?



# IMOGENE'S JOURNEY ACROSS AMERICA



# SAY WHAT?

HOW MANY OF THESE CUSTOMIZED LICENSE PLATES CAN YOU TRANSLATE?

LUV 2 TRVL

\_\_\_\_\_

M O GENE

\_\_\_\_\_

CA DRMN

\_\_\_\_\_

PRVT I

\_\_\_\_\_

RAZ MTAZ

\_\_\_\_\_

50 ST8Z

\_\_\_\_\_

WETHR MN

\_\_\_\_\_

Key to customized license plates: 1. Love to travel 2. Imogene 3. California Dreamin'  
4. Private Eye 5. Razzmatazz 6. 50 states 7. Weather Man



## WORD SEARCH

L D N B A Y R A B W B S X E A  
L R N E W T L X A Y I C E S N  
A A A L W A O S V O H Z E O I  
H B M L S Y H S N M Y M O U L  
E X E K P I O I E I W S B T O  
G D A T N O L R U N P I U H R  
I X W G E L P Y K G N X U D A  
A Y T E I A K E M A T I R A C  
P O G L H S K M N U L U M K H  
N A M D O O W K R E V I L O T  
A I N R O F I L A C G A A T U  
U N C L E R A Y O C F O E A O  
P E N N S Y L V A N I A M C S  
S W C C Y Z N U E P C W U I K  
Q J W N R L M O D S W Y M N L

Dear Detectives:

Can you please help me find the words  
below? Some are tricky!

Thanks,

Ms. Imogene Poplar

ALASKA

CALIFORNIA

ILLINOIS

IMOGENE POPLAR

MINNESOTA

NEW YORK

OLIVER K. WOODMAN

PAIGE HALL

PENNSYLVANIA

SOUTH CAROLINA

SOUTH DAKOTA

TAMEKA

UNCLE RAY

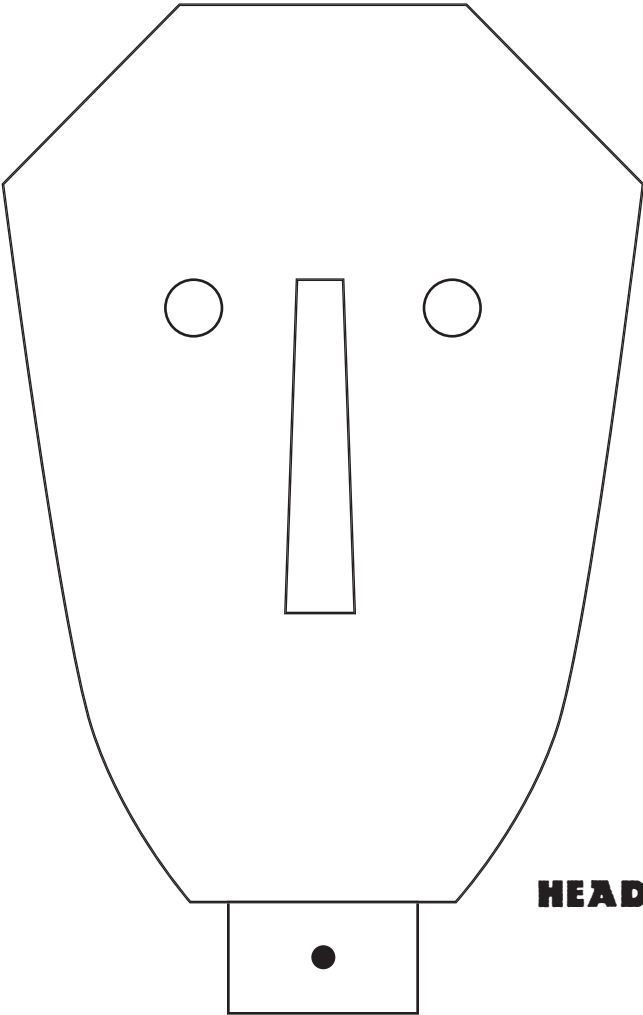
WASHINGTON

WYOMING

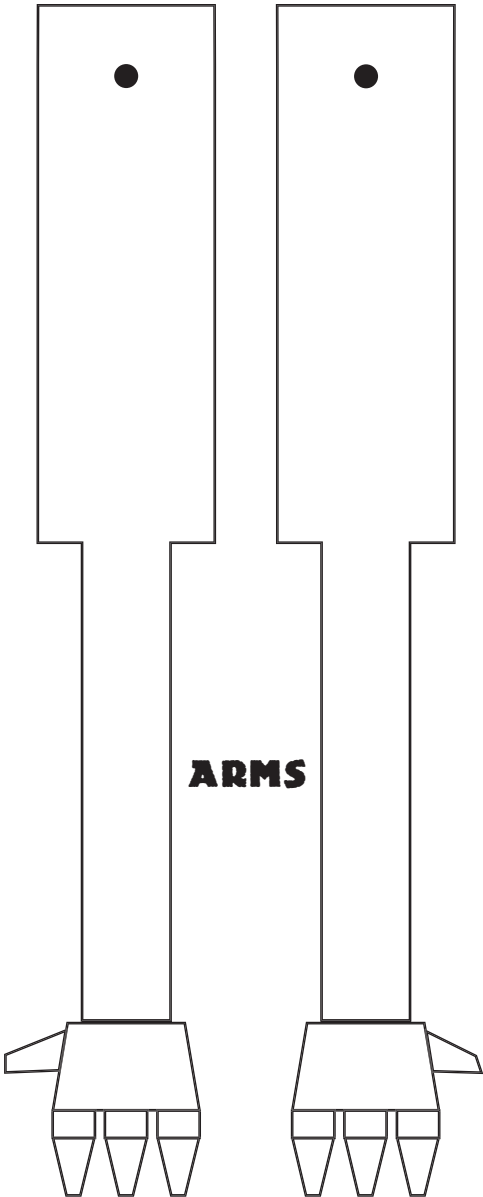


# BUILD YOUR OWN IMOGENE!

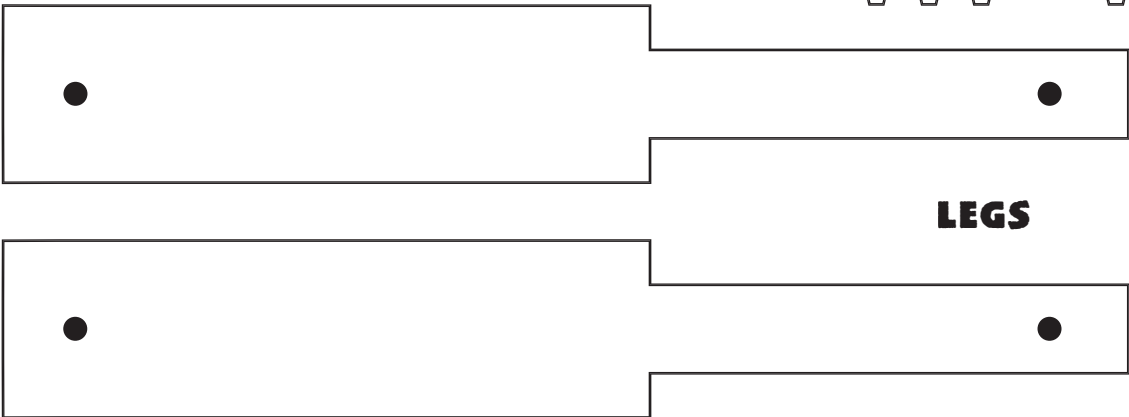
Directions: Cut out each piece and assemble with brass fasteners.



**HEAD**



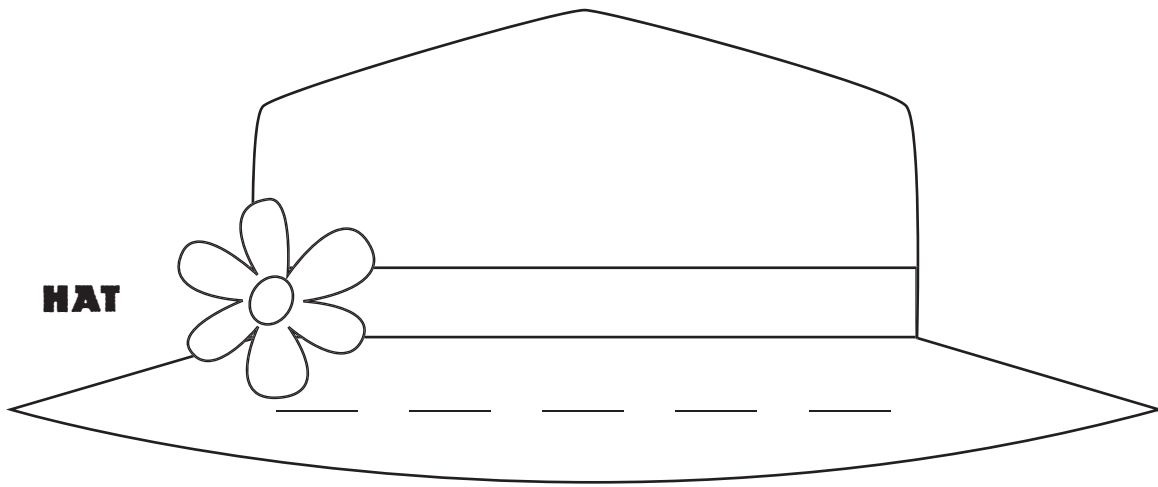
**ARMS**



**LEGS**



**FEET**



Cut on the dotted line,  
so Imogene can wear her hat!

