

## Orphan Trains

# WANTED

## Homes for Children

A company of homeless children from the East will arrive at  
**TROY, MO., ON FRIDAY, FEB. 25th, 1910**

### Mini Fact:

By the end of the Orphan Train project, 47 states had accepted children.



### One family's story

When Clara was about 7 years old, her parents and a sister were killed when they tried to cross a river in New York state. She and her two brothers, 5-year-old James and 3-year-old Howard, were sent to an orphanage in New York City.

Soon after, all three children were sent on the Orphan Train to different families in Kansas. Each child ended up with a different, loving family.

Clara and her brothers were lucky. They all were taken in by caring people. The siblings were able to keep in touch with one another throughout their lives.

Clara was adopted by a minister's family. Her new mother was a schoolteacher.

When she grew up, Clara married and moved to Texas.

Do you know the word "orphan"? An orphan is a child whose parents have died. Today, if a child's parents are gone and no relatives can help, a foster family may take the boy or girl in.

But in the mid-1800s, there wasn't a foster care system. Many orphanages would only accept children whose families could pay.

In New York City, thousands of children lived in the streets. They survived by stealing and begging for food, or selling matches or rags. They slept wherever they could and didn't have enough clothes to keep them warm.

Others had a parent or even two, but the parents couldn't get work to support the family.

### Trying to help

A minister named the Rev. Charles Brace and others started an organization called the Children's Aid Society in 1853. They set up schools to teach the children a trade and the difference between right and wrong. But there were too many children to help that way.

The Children's Aid Society began sending these homeless city children to families in the rural Midwest, hoping they would find better lives. The trains taking them away from New York City's poverty became known as the Orphan Trains.

### Starting a new life

Most of the children stayed on the Orphan Trains for about three days. They slept in their seats or stretched out on the floor underneath.

About 125 kids were on each train, with a few Children's Aid agents traveling with them.

### Saying goodbye

Orphan Train children had to have a lot of courage. Most were leaving behind at least one parent, and many were separated from their

brothers and sisters as well.

The Children's Aid Society believed the children would be better off if their new lives were completely separated from their old ones.

Children were not allowed to communicate with their living parent or

other family members. Most children never knew what happened to their parents. Most parents never knew if their children ended up happy.

Most Orphan Train children found good homes with loving families. But if a child was mistreated, Children's Aid agents usually found him or her a new home.

The Orphan Trains began about 10 years before the Civil War and lasted for about 75 years. In that time, roughly 200,000 children from 4 to 13 years old were placed in rural homes.



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## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of orphan trains are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

AGENT, AID, BEG,  
CARE, CHILDREN,  
COMMUNICATE,  
COURAGE, FOSTER,  
HOME, MIDWEST,  
ORPHAN, PARENTS,  
POVERTY, PROJECT,  
RURAL, SELL, SOCIETY,  
STATES, STEAL, TRAIN.

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



## Cook's Corner

### Jungle Mash

#### You'll need:

- 1 avocado
- 1 teaspoon (or more) lemon or lime juice
- sprinkle of chopped red onion or garlic

- sea salt
- bits of lettuce, kale, basil, parsley, cilantro, arugula, spinach or any other greens
- olive oil



#### What to do:

1. In a big bowl, use a fork to mash together avocado, juice, onion or garlic and sea salt.
2. Add greens as desired and stir.
3. Taste and adjust flavors. If greens seem dry, add a splash of olive oil. Serves 1.

Adapted from "The Help Yourself Cookbook for Kids" by Ruby Roth with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

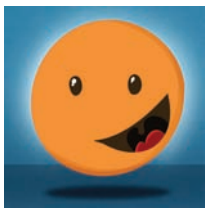
## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. whole Earth (5) \_\_\_\_\_
2. like an empty space (5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. not ordinary (7) \_\_\_\_\_
4. where sides meet (6) \_\_\_\_\_
5. place to buy food (6) \_\_\_\_\_
6. well known (6) \_\_\_\_\_
7. break out of an egg (5) \_\_\_\_\_

|     |    |     |      |
|-----|----|-----|------|
| UAL | HA | WOR | NER  |
| FA  | US | RK  | BL   |
| ANK | MA | TCH | MO   |
| ET  | LD | COR | UNUS |

Answers: world, blank, unusual, corner, market, famous, hatch.



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## Mini Jokes



**Leo:** Why don't lions eat clowns?

**Lisa:** Because they taste funny!

## Eco Note



In nature, plant and animal remains rot quickly with the help of an army of recyclers. Beetles, fungi and bacteria break down dead plants and animals into organic matter. The nutrients return to the soil to nourish plants, which are eaten by animals — and so the cycle begins again. Other materials decay at different rates. Natural substances, such as wool, cloth and wood, rot away quite quickly. But synthetic materials such as plastic, polyester and glass can take centuries to rot — or don't rot at all.

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## For later:

Look in your newspaper for stories about families.

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