1. Be like Lydia Sigourney and write a poem about the Native Americans in Indiana.

2. Research some of the Indiana river and town names and discover their Indian meaning.

3. Many of the Native American tales are about how an animal got its looks or why an animal behaves like it does. Make up a how or why tale about an animal. Tell or write the tale. Examples: how robin got his red breast, why a squirrel’s tale is arched over his back while sitting, how skunk got a white stripe, why rabbit’s tale is short or raccoon’s eyes black.

4. Be another James Whitcomb Riley. Write a poem about the simple pleasures and glories of Indiana: spring flowers, cardinals, morning dew, a kind neighbor, climbing a tree, fishing, baking cookies to share, a thunderstorm. Look around your world, there are poems everywhere.

5. Paul Dresser of Terre Haute wrote our state song, “On the Banks of the Wabash Far Away” in 1897. James Hanley of Rensselaer wrote a similar song, “Back Home Again in Indiana” in 1917. You have heard and sung both songs but now listen to the words and tune and discover the many ways they are alike.

6. John Gruelle wrote little parables and proverbs in the Raggedy Ann stories to teach children right from wrong.
   Example: An unkind whisper’s often heard
   Farther than the shouted word.
   Another is: A singing heart no sadness knows
   Gloom cannot start where gladness glows.
   Be like John Gruelle and write a proverb. Illustrate your words with a Raggedy Ann or Andy illustration.

7. The Underground railroad had a secret vocabulary. Can you guess what this sentence might mean? “Pick up three packages of wool......2 large and 1 small.” Research their special dictionary words: conductor, station, depot, safe house, baggage and package.
LIST OF SHORT BIOS for HURRAH FOR HOOSIERS
these are some of the forgotten Hoosiers with a few famous ones tucked in

“Take me out to the Ballgame” Albert VonTilzer of Terre Haute

Dresser and Hanley…. composers of our “Two” state songs

Hoosier…where did that name come from?
Johnny Appleseed and short story for children to learn and tell

“Hoosiers who helped win the west”
   Sam Bass   Texas sheriff 5 days a week and outlaw 2 days a week
   General Ambrose Burnside (he gave us sideburns)
   General Lew Wallace   Ben Hur, native Crawfordsville
   Gilbert Van Camp…. tinsmith who came up with idea of food in cans
   for Union Army
   Studebakers of South Bend (one of over 100 car manufacturers)
   John Oliver of South Bend…. plowshares for peace
   Levi Coffin…. underground r.r. conductor……students perform a
   short (2 minute) play to demonstrate how slaves were hidden.

“The Golden Age of Indiana”
   James Whitcomb Riley
   John Gruelle (Raggedy Ann)
   Gene Stratton Porter

“Hoosiers and Sports”
   Major Taylor   African American international bicyclist
   Ray Ewry     human frog and 10 gold medals from L’yette
   Oscar Robertson, open doors for other black athletes …had no gym,
couldn’t use water or bathroom facilities at other schools.... Oscar was
   captain of Olympic team and first black on University of Cincinnati team

“And More”
   Eifel Plasterer…. the bubble man
   Ernie Pyle....... journalist with a heart for the soldier
   Dan Patch.... first “sportsman” to be paid for advertising
   Indiana…. Land of the Indians, (we were almost named Tecumseh)
   A Miami How Tale (students can learn if wish)