

**Exploring Rural Kentucky Through Documentary Art:
Creelsboro Landing, 1890s - Documentary Art Interactive
Unit 1 - Lesson Set 4 - The Steamboat**

- For the Student -

BACKGROUND READING

Creelsboro Landing was a busy place when a steamboat pulled in to shore. It carried passengers, livestock, and goods downriver and upriver. Different steamboats plied the Cumberland River, each with its own distinctive whistle to alert people that it had arrived.

The town of Creelsboro was an economic hub with stores and banks as well as pharmacies, schools, and churches. It was the place where people came to buy what they could not produce on their own farms, and it was the place to sell their surplus.



The stern wheel steamboat R. Bunbar pulls up to Creelsboro Landing. A detail from Creelsboro Landing, 1890s by Dennis Thrasher (2018).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you suppose Creelsboro was an economic hub in the 1890s?
2. What geographic features (like a river) make your community distinctive? What role did those geographic feature play in shaping the history of your community? Are they still important today? In what ways?