

## Unit V5-A [æ] axe—[a] ox

**Story**

*Listen to the story as your teacher reads it, or on tape, until you understand the main ideas.*

Jacob Henry was a pioneer farmer. He lived nearly two hundred years ago. His home was in the wilderness far from the nearest city, so he had to be very self-reliant. No one else was around to help him. He depended on his own strength, his tools, and his animals. One of his most important tools was his (1) **axe**. He used it for many things, like clearing land and cutting firewood. Jacob took good care of his axe. If he had ever lost or broke it, he would have been in serious trouble.

Jacob also depended heavily on his animals. His cow provided milk, and his horse was useful for traveling long distances quickly, but for heavy duty work he used his (2) **ox**. It was much larger and stronger than a horse, and he used it to plow his fields, drag logs, and pull his wagon. Without his ox, Jacob might not have been able to survive in the wilderness.

It's hard to say which was most important to Jacob Henry, his axe or his ox. He didn't try to decide. He took good care of them both.

**Contrasting Sentences**

*Listening: Write the appropriate key word in each blank. Later, as you hear each sentence, mark the box, point to the picture, make a gesture, and/or say the rejoinder. Speaking: Choose and say each sentence so that your listener(s) can respond correctly.*

- Jacob took good care of his \_\_\_\_\_ . (tool)
- Jacob took good care of his \_\_\_\_\_ . (animal)

*Explanations and diagrams for this unit's target sounds are on page 332 in Section 10.*