

1865 / Civil War

This program has been designed to give students an immersive experience as learners in a one-room schoolhouse immediately following the American Civil War. Students will partake in lessons using period textbooks on a variety of subjects and learn what life was like during this time in history. The program is intended for 4th and 5th grade students, and is designed to last about 3 hours and 30 minutes.

Before students arrive at the Little Red Schoolhouse, a pre-activity has been designed to get students thinking about the life of Americans in the post-Civil War period. Students examine photographs of children to start thinking about clothing and how fashion has changed over the course of history. The pre-visit activity also asks students to examine a map of the United States from 1865 and assess what is different from current maps.

At the schoolhouse, teachers have the option to choose which of the three lessons they want to complete. The first is an orthography lesson, which involves a reading and vocabulary lesson through the use of a reading textbook from 1860 and a penmanship lesson using the slates. The second lesson is an art and arithmetic lesson, where students complete selected math problems from a historic textbook and attempt recreating drawings on their slates. The third lesson focused on the geography of Pennsylvania. The orthology and art/arithmetic lessons are each designed to last 45 minutes, while the geography lesson is designed to last 30 minutes. If time allows, teachers are encouraged to choose a second lesson to go over.

In addition to the historic lessons at the schoolhouse, students will also learn about one-room schoolhouses in the 1860s and the history of this particular schoolhouse. There is also time for lunch and a 45 minute recess. For recess, there are a combination of indoor and outdoor games that students will be able to play depending on the weather.

Once back in the classroom, there is a post-visit activity that functions both as a reflection of the students' day in the schoolhouse and a way to reinforce what they learned.

Educational Standards

Pre-visit Activity:

8.1.3.A. - Understand chronological thinking and distinguish between past, present and future time. • Calendar time • Timelines • Continuity and change • Events (time and place)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.1 - Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Schoolhouse Programs:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.4 - Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.5.4.B - Read grade-level prose and poetry orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.5.4.A - Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

8.1.3.D. - Understand historical research. • Event (time and place) • Facts, folklore and fiction • Formation of a historical question • Primary sources • Secondary sources • Conclusions (e.g., storytelling, role playing, diorama)

8.2.3.B. - Identify and describe primary documents, material artifacts and historic sites important in Pennsylvania history. • Documents, Writings and Oral Traditions (e.g., Penn’s Charter, Pennsylvania “Declaration of Rights”) • Artifacts, Architecture and Historic Places (e.g., Local historical sites, museum collections, Independence Hall) • Liberty Bell • Official Commonwealth symbols (e.g., tree, bird, dog, insect)

Standard-8.2.5.B - Illustrate concepts and knowledge of historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to Pennsylvania history.

Post-visit Activity:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1.A - Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1.C - Pose and respond to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.8 - Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3 - Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.