



Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plan

Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm

School: Veterans Memorial School
Subject: Social Studies

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Grade: 3

Introduction:

This lesson plan teaches about farm life in the 1700s and culminates with a visit to the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm in Newbury, MA.



The Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm.

Objectives:

- To prepare children for a visit to the farm.
- To build background knowledge for what life was like on a 17th century farm.
- To have children experience cooperative learning.
- To practice inferencing skills.

Materials:

- Several objects (or pictures of objects) appropriate to a 17th century farm.



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Activities:

First discuss what Historians do (historians are people who research what happened a long time ago). One of the ways that historians learn about the past is by looking for objects that they find that people used a long time ago.

Ask the children: “If you were a historian and you wanted to learn about farms in the 1700s, what are some questions you might ask?” They should brainstorm and come up with questions like the following:

- What kinds of animals were on the farm?
- Did they have running water?
- Did they have T.V.?
- How big was the farm?
- Did the farmer work by himself or did he have people to help him?
- What was it like to be a kid on the farm?



Typical farm artifacts at the Saugus Iron Works.

Then show a few pictures of artifacts that will be seen at the farm. Several objects or pictures of artifacts are laid out on tables and each child is asked to write down the physical characteristics of three or more objects in the first column on a piece of paper. In the second column, the students will infer (make an educated guess) about what this object may have been used for on a 17th century farm.

Then ask the students what they would expect to see on a farm 200 years ago.

Children should fill out an organizer sheet.

Finally, visit the farm, and afterwards discuss what was expected to be seen versus what was actually seen.