



Farrell-Wilson House

Pre-Visit Activities:

1. Explain to students the concept of how things change over time. Brainstorm a list of everyday things and how they change. Relate the information to changes at school, in their homes and in their communities (Touch on changes in technology, job choices and types of jobs, family life, etc.).
2. Discuss with the students what an artifact is and explain that they will be seeing artifacts from early Plano families in the Farrell-Wilson House. Have them describe one artifact from their own family that would represent their lives.
3. Discuss with the students "museum manners." Let them know why they are not allowed to touch things (Not touching preserves the artifact longer. Humans have chemicals on their fingers that will eat away at metals and woods and over time leave a permanent finger print on the artifact that they touched).

Post-Visit Activities:

1. Look at pictures of many different styles of houses, past and present. Compare and contrast the many components of the houses. Discuss how the location of the house and the climate of the area can affect the design and location of the house.
2. Do you think the Farrell-Wilson house was typical of all farmhouses built in 1891? What are all the features of the house that tell you it was not a typical farmhouse? (8 different paint colors, parlor gardens, 12 rooms, large amount of land, the large quantity of animals, and the carriage.)
3. With no heating and cooling, how did the owners stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer? (Fire places were in almost every room to keep the house warm in the winter. During the summer, the screen doors, the transoms above the doors, and the locations of the doors across from each other all helped to create cool breezes through the house. The porches of the house also helped to provide a cool breeze and shade from the sun.)