



One Room School House

Pre-Visit Activities:

1. Using the attached list, have a Victorian Spelling Bee.
2. Find out what a teacher did to prepare for teaching in the 1800's. What education was needed? Where did teachers live? What problems did they encounter?
3. Have students look at their lunches, and even what they brought their lunches in. What do you think students would have brought for lunch 100 years ago? What do you think they packed their lunch in?

Post-Visit Activities:

1. Find out what a teacher does to prepare for teaching in the 21st century. Learn what education a person needs to be a teacher and what personality traits are helpful in the job. Have the students interview various teachers and write a story telling of a typical teacher's workday.
2. Have the children look around their classroom. How is their classroom and school different from the school house they visited at the Farmstead?

The Spelling Bee

The students will line up in the front of the room with the teacher near the back. The teacher will then call out the words from the spelling list. If a student gets a word wrong, the next student in line must spell it correctly. If the next student gets the word correct, this student “turns down” the previous student who misspelled the word. (“Turn down” was a phrase used during spelling bees in the early 1900’s to indicate that a student had spelled a word incorrectly and was out of the bee.) The student who spells the word correctly moves one place closer to the head of the line. The student at the head of the line when the bee is over is the winner and gets “head mark.” This student will start at the end of the line in the next spelling bee. Getting “head mark” in the one-room school was something for a student to be very proud of.

During this reenactment of a spelling bee, the students move up in line as they “turn down” other students. The bee will be finished when the spelling list that the students studied is completed, or the students can continue the spelling bee with words that the class had been studying during their regular schooling. The students that are left standing can all receive “head mark.” This spelling bee is not designed to be hard for the students. It is just an activity they will hopefully enjoy.

Winning Words from the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee, 1925-1930

1925 Frank Neuhauser, Louisville Courier-Journal, Louisville, Kentucky: **Gladiolus**

1926 Pauline Bell, Louisville Courier-Journal, Louisville, Kentucky: **Abrogate**

1927 Dean Lucas, Akron Beacon Journal, Akron, Ohio: **Luxuriance**

1928 Betty Robinson, South Bend News-Tribune, South Bend, Indiana: **Albumen**

1929 Virginia Hogan, The Omaha World-Herald, Omaha, Nebraska: **Asceticism**

1930 Helen Jensen, Des Moines Register & Tribune, Des Moines, Iowa: **Fracas**

1. **Tableware**- dishes, silverware, and glassware
2. **Pendant**- something that hangs from a piece of jewelry (necklace or earrings)
3. **Victorian**- belonging to the period of Queen Victoria
4. **Blacksmith**- a person who creates objects from steel or iron
5. **Keepsake**- something kept for a special purpose
6. **Vintage**- something old-fashioned representing the high quality of a past time
7. **Artifacts**- a handmade object, such as tool, or the remains of one (ex: Pottery)
8. **Bonnet**- Victorian headwear
9. **Pecan**- a tall hickory tree
10. **Herbs**- a plant used for cooking, medicine and spiritual purposes
11. **Prairie**- a treeless, grassy plain
12. **History**- past events, or celebrations
13. **Traditional**- pertaining to tradition
14. **Educational**- relating to education
15. **Handkerchief**- a piece of cloth used for wiping the eyes or nose
16. **Recite**- to read aloud
17. **Outhouse**- an outdoor toilet that usually consists of a deep hole in the ground and a seat, which are inside of a small structure for privacy.
18. **Livestock**- animals raised on a farm for food and work, such as horses and cows
19. **Horseless carriage**- a term used in the early 1900’s for a car
20. **Dunce Cap**- a tall, conical hat worn as punishment by students who misbehaved