

TEACHER GUIDE (AGES K – 4TH)

FARRELL - WILSON FARMHOUSE

Built in 1891 by Hunter Farrell for his wife Mary Alice and her daughter Ammie, this structure was considered a pretentious, yet practical, farmhouse. Its elaborate trim was characteristic of the time; wrap-around porches and north-south orientation satisfied the need for shade in a time period before air conditioning. Together with three barns and several outbuildings on a 365-acre spread, this homestead was quite a showplace.

Q: This farmhouse features fancy decorative trim named after a popular holiday cookie. Can you guess what it's called? (Hint: these holiday cookies can be shaped into people). Can you find all 7 colors on the house?

A: Gingerbread



Q: Can you guess how this farmhouse is different from your house?

A: This house was built before indoor plumbing, electricity, and internet services were available.



ANIMALS ON THE FARM

The Farmstead is home to many animals, past and present. Walk around the grounds and see if you can find the following animals: chickens, ducks, sheep, donkey, goats and pigs. See if you can figure out what each animal eats!

Please don't feed our animals

Chickens: Berries, grain, insects, grubs, vegetables and mill worms.

Ducks: They love peas!

Sheep: Hay and molasses mixed with grain.

Donkey: Barley straw, oat straw, hay or grass and oats. Poncho loves apples and carrots!

Goats: Green grass, hay and grain.

Pigs: They enjoy vegetables, meat and fruit.



LIVING OFF THE LAND

This working farm relied on wheat, corn, alfalfa and oats. In addition to the crops, most farms would also grow food in a garden for their family to eat.

Find the Kitchen Garden (located behind the Farrell- Wilson Farmhouse). Tell me some of the things you see growing!

Different types of vegetables grow in different seasons, such as lettuce in the winter and tomatoes in the summer. What do you think the family ate when fresh vegetables were not ready to be picked from the garden?

LAUNDRY STATION AND BACK PORCH OF FARREL- WILSON FARMHOUSE

Q: Why was the laundry done outside and not inside?

A: Before the house was connected to the electric grid via electric lines, there was no electricity to power washers and dryers.

Q: Where did the water for the washing tubs come from?

A: The well! A storage tank held water pumped in from the well. You can see it next to the clothesline.



SCHOOLHOUSE



This one-room schoolhouse is an exact replica of an 1895 schoolhouse still standing in Ponder, Texas. Going to school was considered a privilege for older children, as it relieved them from farm chores and exposed them to new ideas and culture.

Q: Would you rather attend school or stay home and do chores on the farm such as laundry and feeding chickens?

YOUNG HOUSE



In 1844, Samuel Young and his family moved from Illinois to Collin County in ox drawn wagons and built a small log cabin just west of Rowlett Creek. Sometime after 1886, Samuel's son, John, constructed a new three-gabled, two-story home (the one you see today). The house had no running water, indoor plumbing or air-conditioning until it was restored as an educational facility in 2001. His daughter, Gladys, lived in the home for 94 years with limited electricity and no water until 1998.

Q: What was the purpose of the door in the upper level that opens into thin air?

A: A balcony on the second floor! During reconstruction, the wood that was used for the balcony was stolen and was never replaced.

POLE BARN



This structure was built in 1895 from logs hauled from the Red River. It functioned as an animal barn as well as a machinery shed. The concrete floor was added during restoration, but the poles, sides and roof are original.

Q: Why were barns important to farmers? What kinds of animals would live in a barn?
Have you seen our famous donkey, Poncho, yet?

IMPLEMENT SHED (TRUCKS, TRACTORS AND PLOWS)

Q: Who do you think pulled the plow for the farmers?

A: By late 1886, Plano was known as the "Mule Capitol of the World!" When the Farmstead purchased its first tractor, foreman Ernest Sanders reportedly did not like using it, instead preferring to plow with a team of mules.

