



8th Grade Field Study Preview

March 31-April 2, 2016

Civil War

Interdisciplinary Field Study:
Interpreting the Civil War,
Mississippi River System, & Planter
Culture through the Siege of
Vicksburg historic Natchez, MS

Quick Preview

We're so excited to begin in earnest preparing students for their 8th grade field study!

Here are a few images to set the stage. We'll be sending a letter of intent to attend home the first week back to school, so this gives you an opportunity to check your family schedule and make plans.

This event is part of the 8th grade curriculum and has graded components. Students who do not attend will have academic exercises to complete during the time we are out of town.



SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.

ENG. SIMILE PRINT BY L. PRANG & CO.

Objectives

- Interpret the Civil War through the Siege of Vicksburg at Vicksburg National Military Park
- View changing wartime technology: The ironclad “USS Cairo,” first US ship sunk by a torpedo/mine
- Commemorate fallen Civil War soldiers from both sides of the war in student-led ceremony to honor ancestors of participants
- Interpret the economic importance of the Mississippi River in the history of the Southern economy and its strategic importance in the war
- Observe the river’s place in creating and re-creating the landscape and topography of the region, using topographical maps and exhibits
- Interpret plantation culture by visiting Frogmore Plantation, which has slave quarters and outbuildings and period gin from the antebellum period, and which also had a fully computerized cotton gin. Frogmore is still a working plantation with on-site interpreter.
- Experience the lives of two Natchez planter families through primary source documents and visiting Melrose & Longwood.
- Discuss and explain the defining nature of the Civil War in the history of the United States





Battlefield Monuments



Illinois Monument at Vicksburg Battlefield



Ironclad: USS Cairo Museum



Honoring the dead: Student-led ceremony to honor Civil War dead, including identifying ancestors of our group.



Frogmore Plantation



Longwood: Unfinished because the workmen enlisted in the army



Aerial View: Longwood



Melrose, Natchez Nat'l Park



Your tax dollars as work: The Preservation of Melrose



Melrose Grounds



Important Information:

- Departure Thursday, March 31, early morning
- Return Saturday, April 2, after dinner
- Payment schedule:

Total cost: \$100 per student

Payment schedule: \$50 - due by Jan. 30

Final payment due by Feb. 30; amount to be determined based on fundraising completed during January and February. Will not exceed \$50.

Tentative agenda:

- Day 1: Leave CCS, drive to Vicksburg. Civil War foraging game with prizes en route. Visit cemetery, see interpretive video, monuments drive, USS Cairo ironclad, have student-led memorial ceremony for war dead.
- Drive 1 hour to Natchez, MS. Check into Hampton Inn. Dinner at Fat Mama's and do riverwalk park. Meeting and games in hotel meeting room. Take up technology; No phones in student hotel rooms.
- Day 2: See Melrose Plantation, lunch on site, Frogmore plantation/cotton gin/Longwood/dinner out. Evening: scavenger hunt in historic Natchez City Cemetery. Meeting & games in meeting room. Take up technology & dismiss to rooms.
- Day 3: See historic St. Mary Basilica, start driving back. See Lower Mississippi River Museum (Corps of Engineers) at Vicksburg. Riverwalk to see height of flood stage in various years. Lunch in Vicksburg at McDonald's, then drive home.