

Mt. GILEAD
SCHOOL

MISSOURI

in

1889

teacher packet

INTRODUCTION

“Mt. Gilead School: Missouri in 1889” offers first through fifth grade students and homeschoolers a unique opportunity to experience history. This is a living history program; not a tour. Students will act as the “pupils” in 1889, sit at wooden desks, practice their penmanship using slates, participate in a spelling bee, read from McGuffey’s Readers, and participate in period games. While we hope students will enjoy these activities, the program was designed to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of the one room school heritage.

Pre-visit preparations are critical for a successful learning experience. A suggested planning calendar is included to assist you in organizing these activities. Upon completion of these activities and participation in the school program, students will be able to:

1. Identify five items used in a one-room school and explain how and why they were used.
2. Compare and contrast a school day in 1889 with their present school day.
3. Identify four subjects taught in 1889.

A teacher dressed in period clothing will teach the program at Mt. Gilead School. The teacher will greet you upon your arrival.

SUGGESTED PLANNING CALENDAR

Three weeks before visit

- a. Begin planning lunch - meal and pail
- b. Discuss clothing and begin helping students put together outfits

Two weeks before visit

- a. Review school facts, rules and discipline
- b. Practice recitation exercises
- c. Make lunch pails

One week before visit

- a. Review recitation exercises
- b. Check progress of period clothing and lunch pail
- c. Select two games to play and review games and rules with students

Week of your visit

- a. Review activities from previous weeks
- b. Remind students to bring lunch on day of visit

Bring on the day of your visit

- a. Lunches in pails, baskets or cloths
- b. Wear costumes
- c. Students should not bring pens, watches, jewelry or gum

PROGRAM LESSON PLAN

10:00 a.m.	Arrival at Mt. Gilead School
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Morning Classes
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and games
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Afternoon Classes
2:00 p.m.	Dismissal

NOTE TO TEACHERS

These times can vary as each individual teacher conducts the session. A bench is located at the back of the schoolroom for the teacher and adult chaperones to use during the program. **The Mt. Gilead teacher will lead all program activities except lunch and lunch time games. You will be responsible for selecting and organizing these games and supervising lunch.** Also, your assistance may be requested by the Mt. Gilead teacher to help with discipline. Unruly students should be removed. You know your students much better than we do, so please help us make this an enjoyable experience for everyone.

We ask that if you bring a camera to please check with your teacher to see if they object to photographs during class time. The Mt. Gilead teacher will be happy to take a group picture at the end of the day with you and your class.

The students will not recite the Pledge of Allegiance because it did not exist until 1892.

Attached in this packet is a copy of our photo release form. Please make copies and send one of the forms home with each student. Photos taken the day of your field trip may be added to our website, and/or Facebook page. Please inform parents that they can see photos of their kids on the Historic Mt. Gilead School Facebook page.

LUNCH

Most students brought their noon meal with them instead of walking home for lunch. The lunches taken to school were often carried in simple tin pails. These could have been store bought; however, most lunch pails were “recycled” lard or syrup cans. All students attending the Mt. Gilead School program will need to bring a lunch. A period lunch is recommended but not required.

How to make a lunch pail**

1. Collect a large coffee can (or shortening can) for each person
2. Cans can be painted silver or covered with butcher paper
3. File down any rough spots on the rim
4. Drill two holes near the rim on opposite sides
5. Use twine, wire or string as a short handle.

** If you do not wish to make a lunch pail, lunch can be carried in a large cloth napkin or scrap of fabric. The four corners should be tied together. Lunch can also be carried in a basket.

The contents of the lunch pail would vary. Leftovers were often used. Wax paper or brown paper was used to wrap food. Some suggestions are:

1. Sandwiches made of sausage, ham, bacon, cheese or egg
2. Fried chicken or ham
3. Hard-boiled eggs
4. Baked sweet potatoes
5. Cornbread or pancakes
6. Buttered bread
7. Biscuits with butter and jelly
8. Apples, pears or dried fruit
9. Raw vegetables
10. Pie, cake or cookies

Each student should bring a drinking cup! An enamel or tin cup is recommended but paper or china would also be appropriate. Water is provided!

Remember the year is 1889, so do not use or bring: plastic bags, aluminum foil, plastic containers, potato chips, processed meat, paper napkins, chocolate chip cookies (not common until 1940), cans of pop, styrofoam or plastic cups.

CLOTHING

Students are encouraged to “dress in costume” for their visit to Mt. Gilead school. Since hand-me-downs were the norm, clothing did not fit as nicely as it does today. Students should not feel that their costumes have to be tailored to their size. Be sure to dress according to the weather.

Girls wore dresses or skirts, tights, aprons, bonnets, and boots. Girls usually wore their hair in braids. Boys wore blue jeans, trousers, or overalls, white or flannel shirts, suspenders, boots and hats.

RULES AND DISCIPLINE

Discipline was not usually a problem at rural schools. Pupils respected the authority of their teacher and the teacher had the right to administer punishment using a switch, strap or paddle. Other punishments included: 1) writing on the blackboard one hundred times “I will not...” 2) standing with one’s nose pressed in a circle on the blackboard and 3) standing in front of the class in disgrace. Parents quickly learned of any discipline problems at school and the student would also be disciplined at home.

Pupils had to obtain permission from the teacher to speak in class. Pupils would raise their hands to ask a question. When the teacher recognized you, the pupil would stand beside their desk to ask questions and then sit down.

RECITATION EXERCISES

Memorization was an integral part of education. In the era before radio, television and video games, children recited poetry, played instruments or performed for social entertainment. The following are three very popular verses. During recitation period the class will be called upon to recite one of these poems. If possible, they should recite from memory. This will be addressed as homework from the previous day.

HOME, SWEET HOME

By John Howard Payne (1791-1852)

'Mid pleasures and palaces, though we may roam,
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home;
A charm from the skies seems to hollow us there,
Which, seek through the world, is ne'er met with elsewhere.

An exile from home, splendor dazzles in vain;
Oh, give us my lowly thatched cottage again;
The birds singing gayly, that came at my call;
Give me them, and that sweet peace of mind, dearer than all.

Home, home, sweet, sweet home,
There's no place like home, there's no place like home.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

Under a spreading chestnut tree the village smith stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he, with large and sinewy hands;
and the muscles of his brawny arms are strong as iron bands.

His hair is crisp, and black, and long, his face is like the tan;
His brow is wet with honest sweat, he earns whate'er he can;
And looks the whole world in the face, for he owes not any man.

Week in, week out, from morn til night, you can hear his bellow blow;
you can hear him swing his heavy sledge, with measure beat and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village bell, when the evening sun is low.

FOUR LEAF CLOVER

By Ella Higginson (1823-1911)

I know a place where the sun is like gold, and the cherry blooms burst with snow,
and down underneath is the loveliest nook, where the four leaf clovers grow.

One leaf is for hope, and one is for faith, and one is for love, you know,
But God put another in for luck...If you search, you will find where they grow.

But you must have hope, and you must have faith, you must love and be strong, and so,
If you work, if you wait, you will find the place where the four leaf clovers grow.

GAMES

Schools generally did not have playground equipment. Pupils played group games during recess and lunch. Your class will have time to play two to three games during lunch break. Pupils will stay inside on bad weather days so select games from the inside list. You may select games from this list or use your own. **Remember, you will be responsible for selecting and organizing the games.**

Outside games:

Drop the Hanky: Object-- The player being chased must try to reach the spot the second player has vacated before he is tagged. How to Play: Children form a circle except for one child. This child A then walks around the circle and drops a hanky behind child B. Child B picks up the hanky and tries to tag child A before he makes it to child B's spot in the circle. If child B is unable to tag child A they become it. If child B succeeds in tagging child A, then child A is still it.

Wood Tag: Object-- Run to a wooden object so you will not become it. How to play: "It" runs to tag another player, who then becomes "it". A player is safe and may not be tagged when touching wood (picnic table, trees, etc.).

Have You Seen My Sheep?-- Children stand in a circle facing the center. "It" is on the outside of the circle and touches someone on the back and says, "Have you seen my sheep?" The person that was touched replies, "How was your sheep dressed?" The first then replies by describing the clothing of a player who, when they recognize their self, must run around the outside of the circle back to their spot without being tagged by "it".

Follow the Leader-- One is chosen as leader and everyone else must follow in line, doing everything the leader does.

Beast, Bird, or Fish-- Children sit on the ground in a circle. One throws a knotted hanky at another exclaiming BEAST! Or BIRD! Or FISH!, and then counts to 10. Before 10 is counted, the other must name a beast, bird or fish...whatever the previous player called and you cannot repeat any animal twice. (Example: BEAST! - giraffe, BIRD! - pelican, FISH! - trout)

Red Rover-- Object: The game ends when one side captures all the players on the other side. How to play: Two lines are formed facing each other. The first team yells "Red Rover, Red Rover, send (name of child) over." The named child runs across the field trying to break through the hands of the players on the other side. If the child gets through, they get to select a player from that team and return to their side. If they do not break through they remain with that team.

Spoons, jump ropes, marbles, jars, and hankies are available at Mt. Gilead.

Inside Games:

Spoon Relay-- Object: The first team to complete the relay wins. How to play: The players are divided into two teams. Each team has a spoon and a marble. Each player navigates the course without dropping the marble from the spoon. If the marble is dropped the player must go back to the starting line and go again. The spoon and marble then pass to the next team member until everyone has had a turn.

Charades-- Object: To correctly guess what the other team acts. How to play: Children divide into two teams. Each team will select a word to be guessed by the other team. The chosen word is then "acted out" by the team members until the other team guesses correctly.

Drop the Clothespin-- Object: The winner is determined by the player who drops the most clothespins into the jar. How to play: A jar is placed on the floor. The player stands with his arm straight over the jar and drops the clothespins, one at a time, into the jar.

Lost Child-- Object: This game is a test of memory. How to play: All of the children remain seated with the exception of one child who is sent from the room. The teacher selects one child to hide while the rest of the children change seats. The child returns to the room and tries to guess which child is missing. If he guesses correctly, he may take his seat and a new player is chosen. If he is incorrect, he must remain the guesser.

SCHOOL FACTS

1. The school year lasted from the end of fall harvest to the beginning of spring planting.
2. There was one teacher for all grades. The older pupils helped the younger ones.
3. Pupil's ages ranged from 4 to 19.
4. The younger students sat near the front and the older students in the back.
5. The school was heated by a coal or wood stove and cooled by opening the windows.
6. Most students walked to school, some rode horses and a few got to ride in wagons.
7. Most schools only had first through eighth grade.
8. Subjects taught included reading, writing, arithmetic, orthography (spelling), manners, penmanship, history, geography, physiology, agriculture, music, Latin and others.
9. The average class size was thirty to forty students, although one-third were usually absent due to illness, poor weather conditions or helping out at home.
10. The students played group games during recess. Most schools did not have playground equipment, but some of the lucky ones had swings and seesaws.
11. The outhouse was not inside the school. It was located to the side or behind the school.

POST VISIT ACTIVITIES

1. Write a story about your day in a one-room school. Include in your story whether you would like to continue to attend school in 1889 or your present school. Explain why.
2. Interview someone who attended a one-room school and then write a report.
3. Compare your school with Mt. Gilead School in 1889.

Mt. Gilead School Evaluation

After your visit to Mt. Gilead School, we would appreciate your opinion of this program.

1. Did you encounter any problems with scheduling your visit? Yes _____ No _____
If so, please explain. _____

2. Did you use the pre-visit packet? All _____ Some _____ None _____
3. Was the pre-visit packet material helpful? Yes _____ No _____ Too difficult _____
Too easy _____ Suggestions? _____

4. Was your visit too long? _____ Too short? _____ Just right? _____
5. Was the program presented effectively? Yes _____ No _____ How could it be improved? _____

6. What did you and your students enjoy the most? _____

7. What did you and your students dislike? _____

8. Other suggestions or comments? _____

Date of visit _____
Name of Mt. Gilead Teacher _____
School _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Thank you for attending the Mt. Gilead school program. We appreciate your assistance and comments. Please return this form to the Mt. Gilead teacher at the end of your visit. You may also email, fax or drop it in the mail. Jesse James Museum

21216 Jesse James Road
Kearney, MO 64060
Fax to: 816-736-8501
historicsites@claycountymmo.gov



I, _____, hereby agree to allow Clay County, Missouri to utilize my child's image in any promotional media as deemed appropriate by Clay County.

Date _____ Signature _____
(Parent or Guardian if under 18 years of age)

Parent Name _____
(Print)

Name of Child _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Clay County Representative _____

If signed and returned you can see photos of your child on the Historic Mt. Gilead School facebook page or county website.

For more information on potential Clay County Historic Site events or promotions, please contact the Historic Sites Department at (816)736-8500 or historicsites@claycountymo.gov.