Lincoln’s New Salem

5th grade Activity #1

Questioning is a good activity for comprehending what you read and learning more details about the topic that you are studying. After reading and looking at some of the sources available on the New Salem Village, think of some questions that will help you learn more.

Method:
1. Take the virtual tour on the Lincoln’s New Salem website at www.lincolnsnewsalem.com
2. Read as much of the information from the sources listed below as time allows.
3. View the video from New Salem about Abe Lincoln while he was in New Salem, called Turning Point. If you do not have one you may request one by e-mail to newsalem@lincolnsnewsalem.com or by calling 217-632-4000.
4. Ask the students to develop four (4) questions about a specific area in the New Salem village or about one of the residents who lived there during the time that the village was an active thriving one, (1830-1840). Ask the student to write a prediction about what may have happened or what the situation may have been like.
5. Tell the students that they will be taking their questions with them. They will ask the interpreters in the buildings one or two of their questions while they are on the tour. Remind the students that the interpreters may not be able to answer all of their questions due to time constraints and that there may be other people coming through at the same time. Remind the students that listening is the key and if their questions are not answered directly, they may hear something that they were looking for quite by accident.
6. Have the students take their questions and a pencil with an eraser
7. After the students return from their field trip, they will each share a question, their prediction, and the answer that they found.
8. The post-trip reporting will help make them accountable for their work

Objective: Experience in research, ability to refine questions and gain knowledge from questioning, comprehend various reading materials, listen and speak in a variety of situations

Materials: Paper, pencil, computer time/resource time, computer
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Sources:
1. Website: [www.lincolnsnewsalem.com](http://www.lincolnsnewsalem.com)
2. Videotape about Abraham Lincoln while he was at New Salem (this video is a sensitive and insightful view of events, feelings and thoughts that may help to understand Abraham Lincoln). This video is shown every 30 minutes at the New Salem Visitor Center. It is recommended that the video be shown prior to your visit. It can be obtained by calling 217-632-4000 or e-mail at [www.lincolnsnewsalem.com](http://www.lincolnsnewsalem.com). Please give sufficient time for receiving your copy of the video.
3. Brochures about the village (copies can be obtained prior to your visit at the above phone number and e-mail address).
4. Student curriculum handouts about the buildings and people (request your copies for your grade level via the phone number above or e-mail address).

- Our website will be updated in the future that will include lesson plans and activity sheets for you and your students to gain the full experience of what life was like in the ten years that New Salem was an active village. Until then, we will be more than happy to send them to you.

As students research and develop their questions the following Illinois Learning Goals will be met.

**English Language Arts**
State Goal 1: Read with understanding and fluency.
   C: Comprehend a broad range of reading in materials
   1.C.2a Use information to form and refine questions and predictions

State Goal 4: Listen and speak in a variety of situations
   A: Listen effectively in formal and informal situations
   4.A.2b Ask and respond to questions related to oral presentations and messages in small and large group settings

**Social Science**
State Goal 16: Understand events, trends, individual movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States and other nations.
   A: Apply the skills of historical analysis and interpretation.
   16.A.2c Ask questions and seek answers by collecting and analyzing data from historic documents, images and other literary and non-literary sources.