A Look at New Salem
1830-1840 Timeline

7th and 8th grade Activity

Knowledge of the past is essential to understanding the present. Students will learn that the present comes from people and events from the past and that history is a chronological record. Learning about New Salem history, its people and events is a lesson in American history.

Objectives:
1. Through the use of reading, writing and art, students can acquire the important contributions of individuals in New Salem from 1830-1840.
2. Understand how individuals function within New Salem society.
3. Understand how people’s efforts make a community thrive.
4. Develop a sense of pride and appreciation for their work as well as others work within a group setting.
5. Develop ability to perform research and make a presentation in the form of a time line from that research.

Method:
1. Present and review all material relating to New Salem during the period between 1830-1840.
2. Explain that students will choose important events from their resources on New Salem and create a time-line. Students will indicate important events and peoples efforts that led to the development and growth of New Salem in the 1800’s.
3. Have a display on butcher paper in the room of a time-line of some other event as a teaching tool.
4. Explain that students will be expected to make their time-line informative, colorful, creative and that details of people and events are important. The time-lines will be presented to their fellow classmates for a grade.
**Materials:**
- Pen, Pencils and Writing Paper
- Butcher paper
- Computer
- Oil Pastels
- Crayons
- Colored Chalk

If you are comfortably using technology in your classroom, your students may want to create their time-line on the computer. Encourage your students to draw any detail free hand also to ensure creativity for the project.

**Resources:**
- [www.lincolnsnewsalem.com](http://www.lincolnsnewsalem.com) for a virtual tour

  Video, called Turning Point, more specifically on Abraham Lincoln during his stay at New Salem

  Brochures – there are informative brochures about New Salem

  You may request the video or the brochures by e-mail at [www.newsalem@lincolnsnewsalem.com](http://www.newsalem@lincolnsnewsalem.com) or by calling 217-632-4000 for your school.