Overview

Children’s lives weren’t always fun and games! At the turn of the 18th century, children throughout the newly independent country were rolling up their sleeves to become good citizens. On this two hour field trip, students will learn about their own civic duty and the roles of children at the turn of the 18th century. Students will learn about the roles of children in keeping a family farm running, participate in classic school competitions, experience a newly democratic voting system, and yes— get a chance to kick back and relax with historic games.

Essential Questions

1. How can we be good citizens at home, school, and play?
2. How do the principals of democracy help us give everyone an equal say?
3. How have children’s’ lives changed and stayed the same over the centuries?
On the day of...

An educator will meet your group at the buses and get you all checked in. After exiting the bus, students will be led to our central meeting spot to go over rules and expectations for the farm and its animals. From there, students will break into groups and visit four different stations around the farm that will get them hands-on with history, each led by our expert history educators. Schools have the option of staying for lunch and recess, with our historic games and toys and open fields to run and play. At the end of the trip, an educator will lead you safely back to the bus and see you off!

Station 1: Back to School

Learn your ABCs! Students will be introduced to the earliest forms of formal school and its role in kids’ lives. Then, they can cheer their classmates on as they compete in a fast pace, age appropriate spelling bee, a favorite colonial past time!

Station 2: Pitching In

It takes a lot of work to run a family farm. Kids were expected to help out with chores from the age of toddlerhood. Students will get to participate in a selection of seasonal chore farm work, and learn their importance in the larger family work. Examples of such include carding wool, garden work, animal chores, sawing firewood, or gathering crops.

Station 3: Work Hard, Play Hard

Just because kids were working hard at home, school, and jobs, doesn’t mean that they didn’t find time to play! Students will play historic games—some familiar, and some new— and learn how play is influenced by the world around us and what it can teach us about good citizenship.

Station 4: Your Voice, Your Vote

Democracy was the great new American experiment in 1796. Learn how citizens have worked the past 250 years to make voting more fair, and participate in a mock vote.
“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” – Dr Seuss

How can we be good citizens, today and every day?