

## Be a Guest of the Past

**Lesson Title:** Preparing to Visit the One-Room School

**Objectives:** TLW will be oriented to the visit to the one-room school

**Materials:** Review teacher letter (in notebook)

Johnson County Historical Society brochure (in trunk for distribution)

Master copy of letter to parents and caregivers to attached to student permission slips

Two transparencies: rules and guidelines for visiting the museum, and general timeline for fieldtrip (both in notebook)

### **Introduction:**

The one-room schoolhouse still stands and is preserved for our use because past generations treated the schoolhouse and the artifacts inside it with care. As visitors to an historic site, we are guests of the past. We need to preserve the schoolhouse so that future school groups and visitors can also enjoy and learn from it.

Before reviewing the schedule for the field trip, the teacher should discuss with students how to conduct oneself at a historic site. Unlike other museums where precious objects are hanging on the walls or placed on pedestals, the schoolhouse recreates the 1870s experience by the artifacts that are displayed throughout the space. The teacher should explain that students will be surrounded by artifacts and historic reproductions in the one-room schoolhouse, so they need to be aware of how they treat the objects around them.

Children are encouraged to dress up in clothes typical of the period. A long apron, pigtails with bows, and puffy-sleeved blouse all work for girls. For boys, pants tucked into long socks, a wide-brimmed hat, coveralls or jeans with suspenders and a plaid shirt would be appropriate. If students chose not to dress up for the day, we do have period clothing available for them to try on at the museum.

Students should bring a sack lunch and drink. They should be dressed appropriately for the weather. They should also bring their Student Notebook and a pencil. Backpacks are not allowed in the schoolhouse and can be stored in the vestibule.

Students can bring cameras with them, but cameras are not allowed during any of the morning activities. JCHS staff will take a class picture with a digital camera so that it can be emailed to the teacher, and eventually posted on the JCHS website. Copies of the class photo can be xeroxed for each student's notebook.

**Student Activity:**

**In preparation for their visit:**

- Students will write their expectations for the one-room school experience in their Student Notebooks.
- Students will continue to practice their historic character roles.
- Students will be introduced to the post-visit assignment to complete an original work that will be displayed at an open house event at the schoolhouse. Students should be thinking about the assignment during their visit and can record their ideas in their Student Notebooks. See post-visit activities for more information.

**Note to teacher:**

Please make sure that you have sent 2 forms to the JCHS in preparation for your visit: “Student Preparation” and “Historical Character Role Assignments.” This information enables our volunteer teacher to tailor the activities to your students’ preparation and interests.