

2011 Education Programs

Programs for Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade

The Museum recommends the following two programs for Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade groups. The programs are hands on, grade specific, and limit the amount of walking at the museum.

The Early American Experience

Participate in the recreation of a 1740s farm like those built by some of the first settlers in the Valley of Virginia. Students will work with traditional tools and building techniques, and cultivate the land with hoes and other hand tools. They will also learn about foodways, daily life, and survival on the frontier. The students will then travel to the 1820s or 1850s American Farm to see how a farm matured as it became established. Students will have a chance to see various farm animals and why farmers had these animals. The tour finishes with a session at the Museum's Early American Schoolhouse. A "schoolmaster" will teach an abbreviated lesson. Students will have a chance to participate in the lesson and will be able to compare schools of today to schools of the past..

Location: 1740s Farm, 1820s Farm or the 1850s Farm, and Schoolhouse

This program is correlated to the following Virginia SOLs:

History and Social Science – K.2, K.6, K.7, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 1.9, 1.12c, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.12b.

Life in the Old World

Step back into the lives of farmers and families in Europe and West Africa and discover the roles of livestock, field crops, and gardens played in their lives. Your students will try different farm chores and learn how families and communities were organized, and how natural resources affected life for both consumers and producers. Hands-on activities vary by farm and season. Choose three of the four Old World exhibits.

Location: West African Farm, English Farm, Irish Farm, and German Farm

This program is correlated to the following Virginia SOLs:

History and Social Science – K.2, K.6, K.7, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 1.9, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9.

Programs for 3-5th grades

The museum recommends the following programs for 3rd through 5th grade. The programs relate to the Virginia Standards of Learning, include hands on experiences, and are quite fun.

From West Africa to West of the Blue Ridge

West Africa and Virginia have a deep historical connection that has almost been forgotten. Your class will explore this connection through the history and culture of the Igbo people, a West African group with an especially strong presence in colonial Virginia. Your class will learn about daily life in a traditional Igbo household, about the transatlantic slave trade to colonial Virginia, how the Igbo and their descendents contributed to life in Virginia and America.

Location: West African Farm & 1850s American Farm

This program is correlated to the following Virginia SOLs:
History and Social Science – 3.2, 3.4a-c, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.12, VS.3a, VS.4a & b, VS.4d & e, VS.6c, USI.1b & i, USI.4a & c, USI.5a-d.

From Germany to the Valley

In this program, students learn the similarities between the German Farm and the 1820s American Farm in architecture, culture, and daily life. Students learn why many in the Palatinate immigrated to America in the 18th century. The 1820s American Farm showcases the life of an established Valley farmer of German descent.

Location: German Farm and 1820s American Farm

This program is correlated to the following Virginia SOLs:
History and Social Science – 3.8, 3.9, 3.12, VS.4b, VS.6c, USI.1b & i, USI.5a-c.

From Ireland to the Valley

Visit the Irish Farm to see what life was like in the north of Ireland in the 18th century and learn why many people made the decision to emigrate to colonial America. Students will then visit the Settlement Farm to learn how an Irish family started their life in the Valley.

Location: Irish Farm, Irish Forge and 1740s American Farm

This program is correlated to the following Virginia SOLs:
History and Social Science – 3.8, 3.9, 3.12, VS.4b, VS.6c, USI.1b & i, USI.5a-c.

People on the Move: Learn about the Early Immigrants to America

Learn about the factors influencing decisions by peoples of the Old World to come to America. Students will learn about life in the past and through role-playing will make the tough decision to stay or go.

Location: Old World Farms - choose two, three or four Old World farms. (West African, English, Irish, German)

This program is correlated to the following Virginia SOLs:
History and Social Science – 3.8, 3.9, 3.12, VS.3a, VS.4b&d, VS.6c, USI.1b & i, USI.5a-c.

Logs & Rakes, Rails & Shakes: Working with Wood and Iron

Two-man saws, wedges, augers, draw knives, lathes and planes: these tools and many others were used in building fences, splitting shingles and building houses. How did a farmer differ from a professional woodworker in level of ability? Students try their hands at using some of these tools. Location: 1740s American Settlement Site and Irish Forge and farm. This program is hands on and students will understand how hard life was in the past.

Location: Irish Farm, Irish Forge and 1740s American Farm

This program is correlated to the following Virginia SOLs:
History and Social Science – VS.4b, VS.6c, USI5c

Programs Recommended For all Elementary Grades

Holidays in History

Discover what the holiday season meant to the Old World and New World peoples and see how the celebration of Christmas has changed over time. Students will have the chance to go wassailing in England, knocking in Germany, and belsnickling in America. This program is offered in the month of December.

Location: German Farm, English Farm and choose either 1820s American Farm or 1850s American Farm

This program is correlated to the following Virginia SOLs:
History and Social Science – K.2, 1.12c, 2.3, 3.12, VS.4b, USI.1b.

School Days

Do you want your students to truly appreciate how good they have it in your classroom? A session at the Museum's Early American Schoolhouse is just what they need. This program features a brief history of early American education, and invites students to compare life at their modern school day to that of students in the early nineteenth century. The program includes basic lessons from early American textbooks led by the "schoolmaster."

Location: Schoolhouse and the 1820s or the 1850s American Farm.

This program is correlated to the following Virginia SOLs:
History and Social Science – K.2, 1.12c, 2.3, 3.12, VS.4b, USI.1b.

Early to Rise: The Life of an Historic Farmer

Step back into the lives of early farmers and discover the roles livestock, field crops, and gardens played in people's lives. Your students try different farm chores and learn how families and communities were organized, and how natural resources affected life for both consumers and producers. Hands-on activities vary by farm and season.

Location: Choose two farms.

This program is correlated to the following Virginia SOLs:
History and Social Science – K.2, K.6, K.7, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 1.9, 1.12c, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.12b, 3.8. 3.9, 3.12, VS.4b & d, USI.1b & i, USI.5b & c.