



NOAH WEBSTER HOUSE &
WEST HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCHOOL PROGRAMS 2011-2012



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Welcome to the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society, a nonprofit museum dedicated to a hands-on approach to learning.

Centered in Noah Webster's birthplace and inspired by his spirit of discovery, we help students create meaning from the past through participatory experiences and access to historical materials. Our dynamic programs, offered both on-site and in the classroom, meet many of the K-12 Connecticut Curriculum Standards in social studies, language arts and other disciplines. See the chart for details or visit us online at noahwebsterhouse.org.



RESERVATION INFORMATION

Schedule a Program

We recommend scheduling your program at least 4 weeks in advance. *Please have ready:* program name, requested date (with alternates), requested start time, total number of students, grade level, teachers' names, and any special needs. Contact 860-521-5362 ext. 14, or via email education@noahwebsterhouse.org.

Deposits and Payment

A nonrefundable \$50 deposit per program guarantees your reservation and is due 14 days after booking your program. Once we receive your deposit, we will send you a written confirmation and pre- and post-visit materials. The deposit will be deducted from your final balance. Balance is due on the day of the program. Please adjust to reflect any absences or additions. We accept checks (*made payable to the Noah Webster House*) and credit cards.

Lunch Space

Bringing a bagged lunch? We can accommodate about 60 children on our gallery floor. Advance reservation is required for this space.

Chaperones

One adult chaperone is required for every 10 students free of charge. Fee for additional chaperones is \$5.00 each.



Welcome

Visit our Museum Shop

What field trip is complete without a trip to the Gift Shop?
Our museum shop carries books, toys and reproduction artifacts. If you would like your students to use the shop, please let us know when making your reservation. We recommend visiting our gift shop online at www.NoahWebsterHouse.org

Directions

From I-84 (E or W), take Exit 41, South Main St. At the end of the ramp, follow signs for the Noah Webster House, which is located 7/10 mile on the west side of South Main St., West Hartford, CT.
Buses should park on South Main Street in front of the building. Cars may park in our lot, on South Main Street or on a side street.



☎ Call 860-521-5362 ext. 14, to schedule a program or visit us online at www.noahwebsterhouse.org

ON-SITE MUSEUM PROGRAMS

JR. SAMPLER OF EARLY AMERICAN LIFE

What was it like to be a child in the 1700s?

Students find out by exploring our historic house, attending a “dame” school, and trying out different types of children’s work.

Program led by costumed museum teachers.

Grades K-2. Program length: 1 hour Fee: \$5/student

Minimum: 18 students, Maximum: 50 students

SAMPLER OF EARLY AMERICAN LIFE

What was it like to live in the 1700s?

Students explore our historic house to learn about colonial clothing, foods, and medicines, while also trying their hand at 18th-century “women’s” and “men’s” work. Enhance the program with an add on, such as the Colonial Schoolhouse Program led by costumed museum teachers.

Grades 3-8. Program length: 1½ hours Fee: \$6/student

Minimum: 18 students, Maximum: 50 students

HOW THE NATIVES LIVED

Who lived here before the colonists?

Through sensory experiences, students actively learn about the native peoples of Connecticut, including their housing, clothing, tools, and games. Taking place in our colonial house, students will compare and contrast Native American life to that of the colonists. Students will hear a traditional Native American story and each make their own clay pinch pot to take home.

Grades K-3. Program length: 1 hour Fee: \$5/student

Minimum: 18 students, Maximum: 60 students

A DAY OF LIVING HISTORY

How did colonial families live, work and play?

A day in the life of a colonial character! Students research and play the roles of families who lived in Noah Webster’s neighborhood in 1774. Led by our costumed museum teachers, students move through our house while doing chores, attending school, dancing, playing games, and cooking their own lunch on an open hearth! Use of our pre-visit materials is required.

Grades 4-8. Program length: 4 hours Fee: \$17/student

Minimum: 20 students, Maximum: 60 students



explore

TOWN MEETING

What issues led to the American Revolution?

At a 1774 town meeting, Hartford colonists voted to stop trade with England in response to taxes and political policies that they thought were unfair. Role-playing Patriots versus Loyalists, students move through our historic house while discussing the issues of the day with our costumed museum teachers. Then they have a chance to vote during their own 1774 town meeting.

Use of our pre-visit materials is required.

Grades 5-8. Program length: 1½ hours Fee: \$9/student

Minimum: 20 students, Maximum: 60 students

NOAH WEBSTER: LANGUAGE, LITERACY & LEGACY

How does Noah’s legacy continue to affect us today?

This interdisciplinary program combines language arts and history to look at how Noah Webster contributed to American language and the way we learn. Students explore how language has changed over time through group activities, discover Noah’s contributions to American education in a 19th-century schoolhouse, visit our exhibit *Noah Webster: Defining American Life*, and investigate historical objects in Noah’s childhood home. No pre-visit materials required.

Grades 5-8. Program length: 2 hours Fee: \$8/student

Minimum: 20 students, Maximum: 50 students

HUMAN RIGHTS ROLE-PLAY

How did your race and status affect the way you were treated in the 1700s?

In this role-play, students use the historic house as a stage to explore what life might have been like in 1775 Connecticut if they were white, black, free, or slave. Led by costumed museum teachers, students are assigned characters that span race, and status, and must complete a series of related tasks. The program closes with students sharing experiences and making connections to today. Use of our pre-visit materials is required.

Grades 6-8. Program length: 1½ hours Fee: \$8/student

Minimum: 20 students, Maximum: 60 students

WE WILL BE HEARD: ABOLITION IN CT

What role did Connecticut play in the abolishment of slavery?

The year is 1835 and Connecticut, like most of the country, is divided on the topic of slavery. Students will meet costumed museum teachers to learn about the various viewpoints regarding slavery: abolition, colonization, and anti-abolition. Students then become characters present at Hartford’s “Great Meeting in the Park” to discuss what people such as William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass had to say about slavery.

Grades 6-8. Program length: 1½ hours Fee: \$8/student

Minimum: 20 students, Maximum: 60 students

“It was perfectly aligned with our curriculum and enriched our students’ learning greatly”

— 4th Grade School Teacher

role-play

ADD-ONS — add depth to your program!

GET COOKING — add some flavor to your program!

HEARTH COOKING (add to any SAMPLER program)

The ultimate colonial experience! Students will help make “Flatjacks” over an open fire.

Add ½ hour to program. \$4/student



NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE (add to How the Natives Lived)

Cook corn cakes over an open fire using a traditional Native American recipe.

Add ½ hour to program. \$4/student



COLONIAL AMUSEMENTS

What did colonial children do for fun?

Experience first-hand the games and toys of colonial times.

Grades 1-8. Add 1 hour to program, \$4/student.

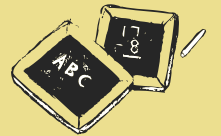
COLONIAL SCHOOLHOUSE

What was colonial school like?

Attend a one-room colonial school, using primers, slates, and quill pens.

Grades 3-8. Add 1 hour to program, \$4/student

Minimum: 25 students, Maximum: 50 students.



OUTREACH PROGRAMS

— Let us come to YOU!

Our Outreach Programs provide students with interactive experiences right in the classroom. Each presentation or program is delivered by one of our costumed museum teachers and is designed for up to 30 students. Fees: For the first session, within a 20-mile radius \$110, 40-mile radius \$135, 60-mile radius \$160. Fee for each additional session \$60. Roundtrip mileage charged for every museum teacher sent.

NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE

Who lived here before the colonists?

Through object exploration and sensory experiences, students actively learn about the native peoples of Connecticut, including their housing, clothing, tools, food and games.

Grades Pre-K-3. Program length: 1 hour

COLONIAL AMUSEMENTS

What did the colonists do for fun?

Children learn about colonial life by playing colonial games such as Morrice and Lucy Lockett and with toys such as a Jacob’s Ladder, ball and cup, button buzzer and top.

Grades 2-8. Program length: 1 hour

READING ARTIFACTS

What can objects tell us about 18th-century life?

By seeing and touching reproduction 18th-century items related to food, school, clothing, and amusements, students will discover how colonists met their basic needs and also had fun.

Grades 2-8. Program length: 1 hour

READING, WRITING AND CIPHERING

What were colonial schools like?

Our costumed museum teacher uses colonial educational methods such as spelling bees, copies of colonial primers, slates and quill pens to teach your students what colonial school was like.

Grades 3-8. Program length: 1 hour

“The games were cool and it was good to see what they played back then”

— Sarah, 3rd grader

COLONIAL DANCE

What was a colonial dance class like?

18th-century dance masters, including Noah Webster himself, traveled throughout Connecticut teaching new dance steps and deportment. Today’s students learn the basic dance steps, manners, attitudes and culture surrounding dance from one of our own “dance mistresses.”

Grades 3-5. Program length: 1 hour

PRIMARY RESOURCES

What are primary sources and how do historians use them?

In this participatory workshop, students learn about the past by examining reproduction 18th-century primary sources including wills, inventories, letters and newspaper ads.

Grades 4-8. Program length: 1 hour

AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRIMARY RESOURCES

What do we know about the lives of African-Americans in 18th-century Connecticut?

Using Bristow (the only African-American to be buried in West Hartford’s Old Center Burying Yard) as an example, students investigate primary sources to explore what life might have been like for African-Americans in colonial Connecticut.

Grades 4-8. Program length: 1 hour

Resource Rentals

Colonial games and toys, Colonial life course kit, and Noah Webster videos available for rent. Please contact us for more information and rental fees or visit our Web site.

Did you know that the Noah Webster House also offers Birthday Parties, Scout Programs, and Summer Camp Programs? Call us for more details 860-521-5362 ext. 14.