



DEAR TEACHER,

We are excited to be able to provide you with this material to enhance a visit to Pricketts Fort State Park. This project is the result of a collaborative effort between Pricketts Fort Memorial Foundation, Fairmont State College GEAR-UP, and RESA VII with financial support from the Benedum Foundation. The specific target audience is the 8th grade student who is currently studying West Virginia history, as well as undertaking career exploration endeavors. Many of you and your students may have visited the Fort in the past, so this is an opportunity to see the field trip experience through new eyes and directly connect that to your curriculum's goals and objectives, as well as your students' contemporary interests.

The overall structure of the material is divided into four units:

1. What Can We Learn From the Past?
2. A Sense of Place
3. The First Inhabitants
4. Early Western Virginia Settlers

All units can be approached independently, and teachers are free to use as much or as little of the material as they find appropriate or have time to cover. Each unit includes an inherent opportunity for comparison of the 18th century (the Fort), 19th century (the Job Prickett House) and the 21st century (the contemporary life of the students themselves). Each unit, while drawing directly on the current state approved text of West Virginia studies used in the 8th grade, has attempted to include activities that cross disciplines. We encourage teachers to work collaboratively within a building where that is possible. We have suggested Pre-Visit activities, On-Site teacher-led activities (that would supplement the Fort staff's interpretive presentation), Learning Trunk activities (that would allow students and teachers to make use of authentic period items on-site), Post-Visit activities and Extended Learning that might be applicable for a social studies fair or a research project. Units also include vocabulary, bibliography, human resource suggestions and internet sites where applicable.

The cd rom includes valuable background research material provided by the Fort staff that relates to the units. Additional background material such as maps or lists of things we thought were important can also be found. Some unit activities are simply described, some have been provided as reproducible sheets. Students are asked to keep a journal of responsive writings throughout the entire learning experience. We have called these writing activities "Log" activities based on the idea of an explorer's log or diary. Lastly, there are two evaluation forms for teachers and students. We want this material to enhance your visit and invite your feedback so we can continue to meet your educational needs.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT PRICKETTS FORT!