

Big House on the Prairie:

An introduction to the Davis family and their home

(Second and Third Grade)

Theme:

The David Davis Mansion in Bloomington, Illinois is the setting for a hands-on look at the differences between past and present society and culture. When it was built for Judge David Davis and his wife Sarah, the Mansion was considered a thoroughly modern home featuring the latest in comfort and technological conveniences. But when students visit the mansion in the 21st century, they glimpse a very different lifestyle from the way they live today. Experiencing life as Illinois residents lived it in the 19th century gives young people an intriguing and meaningful way to compare the differences between their own lives and those of people living in the past.

Objectives:

To give second- and third-grade students examples of Victorian architecture, decorative arts, and social history that allow them to discover differences between past and present.

To provide students with hands-on experiences that allow them to compare their modern home with a nineteenth-century residence.

Format:

Through a variety of hands-on activities, students are given an opportunity to experience what it might have been like to live in this elegant home in the 1870s. Clothing, rules of etiquette, foodways, games, toys and pastimes are all part of this fun and educational program.

A study guide with pre-visit and post-visit activities will be provided for teachers who sign up for the program.

This program meets an extensive list of Social Studies State Goals and Standards for 2nd and 3rd grades.

Illinois Learning Standards and Goals Met

16A - "Apply the skills of historical analysis and interpretation."

16.A.1a - "Explain the difference between past, present, and future time; allow students to place themselves in time."

16.A.2c - "Ask questions and seek answers by analyzing historic documents, literary and nonliterary sources."

16.D.1w - "Identify how customs and traditions from around the world influence the local community."

Program Information:

There is no admission fee for this program.

The program is available on Wednesdays through Fridays from September through May between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The program is 2 hours in length.

Arrangements may be made for multiple classes to participate at the same time. Call (309) 828-1084 for more information and to arrange details.

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SPACE IN THIS PROGRAM AT LEAST THREE WEEKS IN ADVANCE.