

# Snap Apple: Exploring Cultural Diversity through a visit to the David Davis Mansion (Sixth Grade)

**Theme:**

The David Davis Mansion in Bloomington, Illinois—the home of Judge David Davis and his wife Sarah—is the setting for a study of cultural diversity.

Bloomington, Illinois has been shaped over the past century by the impact of many immigrant cultures upon the existing population. In the 1870s, Irish immigration was at its height when Sarah Davis (a New Englander whose origins were English) employed farm hands and servants who brought their Irish traditions with them when they came to work on her estate.

The conflicts that arose from the clash of these two cultures and the eventual melding of the two help students understand the origins of the diverse cultural traditions and conflicts that exist today.

**Objectives:**

To understand the impact of an immigrant culture upon the existing customs and traditions of a community.

**Format:**

Drawing upon primary and secondary sources (the letters of Sarah Davis, newspaper accounts, census records, etc.), costumed interpreters use first-person presentations and hands-on activities to help students compare and contrast Sarah Davis's views with those of her contemporaries.

Students meet and speak with Sarah's Irish maid and Irish cook, who are extremely excited about the Snap Apple party they will be attending on the night of October 31, 1874.

Students also meet Davis family members and friends (also of English origin) who are enjoying an evening dinner party at the Davis home, where they excitedly express a different view of what October 31st is and should be.

Students also encounter the younger generation in both groups who represent yet another set of beliefs and attitudes towards Halloween.

The hands-on activities provide examples of cultural differences in language, the arts, literature, and foods.

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

This program meets an extensive list of Illinois Learning Standards and State Goals for sixth grade.

## Illinois Social Studies Goals Met

**16.A.2c** – “Ask questions and seek answers by collecting and analyzing data from historic documents, images and other literary and non-literary sources.”

**18.A.2** – “Explain ways in which language, stories, folk tales, music, media and artistic creations serve as expressions of culture.”

**18.B.2a** – “Describe interactions of individuals, groups and institutions in situations drawn from the local community (e.g., local response to state and national reforms).”

**18.B.2b** – “Describe the ways in which institutions meet the needs of society.”

**18.C.2** – “Describe how changes in production (e.g., hunting and gathering, agricultural, industrial) and population caused changes in social systems.”

### **Program Information:**

There is no admission fee for this program.

The program is available on Mondays and Tuesdays in October between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The program is approximately 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 BY OCTOBER 1.**