



Pre-Visit Warm Up

You are coming to visit the Hickory Hill Museum and Historic Site. A *museum* is a place that collects objects. An *historic house* is a building that is important in some way, perhaps because someone famous lived there, or because an historic event took place there; the building was preserved to serve as a museum. The objects that museums collect are called *artifacts*.

So, Hickory Hill is both an historic house and a museum. We collect artifacts that were made, used, or owned by Senator Thomas E. Watson and his family.

One way to learn about the past is from reading books. You read books in your classroom. At a museum we often learn from objects as well. Objects from the past can show us what people wore, what jobs they did, what their houses looked like, and much more. Imagine telling your grandchildren what it was like to go to school when you were young. What do you think they would learn from the objects in your classroom today?

When you visit Hickory Hill, pay attention to what each artifact looks like. Is it plain or fancy? Is it hand-made or machine made? Does it have any special writing markings on it? What do you think it was used for? Asking yourself these questions will help you understand the past in the same way that museum curators understand it.

Suggested Activities

1. A good way to introduce the museum lesson is to read the following book to your K-3 class. This is a modern book looking back at life in the early years of the 20th century.
My Great Aunt Arizona by Gloria Houston, Harper Collins Publishers 1992.

2. For grades 3-5 you may want to choose some passages from the following books which were originally published in the early 20th century. They have been reprinted, and should be easy to find.

Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery (originally published 1908)

Text available online at:

<http://www.literature.org/authors/montgomery-lucy-maud/anne-of-green-gables/>

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm by Kate Douglas Wiggin (originally published 1903)

Text available online at:

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/kiddielit.html>

3. For Middle School students, read the platforms of America's political parties, past and present, and discuss their similarities and differences.

Democratic National Convention:

<http://a9.g.akamai.net/7/9/8082/v002/www.democrats.org/pdfs/2004platform.pdf>

Republican National Committee (GOP):

<http://www.gop.com/media/2004platform.pdf>

People's Party (1896):

<http://www.geocities.com/progpop/populist.platform.html>

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4. For High School History and Civics students, please contact Hickory Hill and request a copy of Tom Watson's "Speech against the Conscript Act" to read and discuss with your students. It is a timely work with a basis in British and American Common Law.

When paired with classroom activities and discussion, a visit to Hickory Hill addresses Georgia Education Standards: SS2.1, SS2.4, SS3.1, SS3.2, SS3.4, SS3.6, SS5.2, SS5.3, SS5.4, SS5.10, SS5.11, SS8.6, SS8.7, SS8.16, SS8.22, USH10, USH11, USH12, USH13, USH14, USH 15, USH16, USH17, and USH18. Contact us for additional ways we can help meet your curriculum goals and standards.

Museum Manners

Help us make visiting Hickory Hill a pleasant experience for you and future generations by following these guidelines. Please review them with your students and chaperones.

Please do not eat, drink, chew gum, or use tobacco products inside the historic house. Accidental spills and wafting smoke particles can cause irreparable damage to our artifacts. Crumbs from candy and food will attract mice, roaches, and other critters that will damage the artifacts. Even when a specialist can repair damaged artifacts, the cost is very high.

Please do not run, shout, or disturb other visitors in any way.

We understand that a museum visit is very exciting, and we want you to express yourselves. Just remember to be courteous of other visitors. For the sanity of your tour guide, cell phones must be turned off during the visit; pagers should be set to vibrate only.

Please do not handle or sit on any artifacts.

Many of our artifacts are very old and fragile. Sometimes even the slightest touch or bump can cause some damage. Even though one touch may not visibly damage an artifact, the oils transferred from your fingers are already breaking down particles of the artifact on a microscopic level.

Please do not use flash when taking photographs inside the building.

High exposure to light will fade fabrics, cause paper to yellow, and change the color of varnishes. It is not reversible.

All pets (except assistance dogs) should not accompany you to Hickory Hill.

Animals can cause damage to artifacts and museum property in a number of ways. Additionally, the presence of your animal may cause an allergic or fearful reaction in other visitors.

Please leave backpacks and large bags in your vehicle.

In a small historic room, the awkward size of large bags and backpacks make it too easy for visitors to bump into or knock over an artifact.

Please respect your tour guide.

Please give them your polite attention and respect. Raise your hand when you have a question.

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Please respect the grounds and the wildlife.

There are several fountains and birdbaths on the grounds, do not play in or around them as damage may occur to the fish or the water feature. Throughout the grounds are buildings related to farm life. Please refrain from entering them. They have not yet been made ready for public touring. The animals around Hickory Hill are not managed, they are wild; students may see turtles, lizards, fish, bats, bluebirds, owls, hawks, and other birds, squirrels, opossums, raccoons, as well as cats and dogs – under no circumstances should the animals be fed or touched.

