

A Historical Fieldtrip of Tuscaloosa

Lesson Plan Grade Levels: *5th and 6th grade*

Introduction: On this field trip student will visit the Gorgas House on the University of Alabama campus and the Mildred Westervelt Warner Museum located nearby on the scenic Black Warrior River. At the Gorgas House the students will learn about the Gorgas family's rich history that begins just before the Civil War and continues on today. Members of the Gorgas family have been influential during the Civil War, Spanish American War, and the building of the Panama Canal. The Panama Canal was revolutionary for transportation so to learn more about this and how transportation has helped shape our country students will visit the Mildred Westervelt Warner Transportation Museum. While visiting the transportation museum, students will explore how early Native Americans used rivers for transportation, specifically the Black Warrior River. Students will also learn how early 1900's inventions and technology began a transportation revolution that has continued until today.

Guiding Questions: *Who were the Gorgas family and why are they important to Alabama? How has the Gorgas family influenced transportation? In what ways has transportation shaped the history and landscape of Tuscaloosa?*

Learning Objectives:

ALCOS Objectives 5th Grade Social Studies

3.) Compare major Native American cultures in respect to geographic region, natural resources, government, economy, and religion.

Examples: Southeast, Northeast, Southwest, Pacific Northwest, Plains

10.) Describe political, social, and economic events between 1803 and 1860 that led to the expansion of the territory of the United States.

Examples: Louisiana Purchase, Indian Removal Act, Texas-Mexican Wars, Mexican-American War, Gold Rush of 1849

12.) Identify causes of the Civil War from the northern and southern viewpoints.

- Describing the impact of the Civil War on the social, economic, and political life of the United States

13.) Identify social, political, and economic changes that occurred during Reconstruction.

- Describing the effects of Reconstruction on women and African Americans

ALCOS Objectives 6th Grade Social Studies

2.) Describe the impact of industrialization, free markets, urbanization, communication, and cultural changes in the United States prior to World War I.

- Discussing the construction of the Panama Canal

3.) Identify causes and consequences of the Spanish-American War.

- Identifying major people involved in the Spanish-American War Examples: Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders, William Gorgas

6.) Identify cultural and economic developments in the society of the United States from 1877 through the 1930s.

- Discussing contributions of inventors from 1877 to World War I Examples: George Washington Carver, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Wilbur and Orville Wright
- 10.) Identify major social and cultural changes in the United States from 1945 to 1960. Examples: movement to suburbs, introduction of television and rock and roll, increased birth rate during baby boom, changes in transportation due to the Federal Highway Act

Background: [Gorgas House Website](#)
[Transportation Museum Information](#)
[Josiah Gorgas Information](#)
[William Gorgas Information](#)

Lesson Preparation Instructions: 5th Grade students should have completed the unit on the Civil War. 6th Grade students should have completed the unit on American Expansion and the Panama Canal. Start a KWL with the students.

The following activities can be used to introduce or review material that will be covered on the field trip. These activities will reinforce Reading Comprehension skills.

1. Amelia Gorgas Student Worksheet
2. Josiah Gorgas Student Worksheet
3. WWI, the Flu, & William Gorgas Student Worksheet

Lesson Activities:

1. Tour the Gorgas House and have each student complete the Gorgas House Student Handout.
2. Sack Lunch on the Quad or arrange to eat at the Ferguson Center.
3. Travel to Transportation Museum.
4. Tour the Transportation Museum and have each student complete the Transportation Museum Student Handout.
5. Finish KWL.

Extending the lesson:

[No Longer Oceans Apart Thematic Research Unit](#)
[Panama Canal Webquest](#)

Time Required:

- *Civil War Unit or Panama Canal Unit 5-10 class periods
- *Amelia Gorgas Student Worksheet, Josiah Gorgas Student Worksheet, WWI, the Flu, & William Gorgas Student Worksheet 2-3 class periods
- *Touring Gorgas House and Transportation Museum 1 day field trip
- *Completing/Reviewing Gorgas House Student Handout & Transportation Museum Student Handout 1 class period
- * No Longer Oceans Apart Thematic Research Unit 2 class periods
- *Panama Canal Webquest 2 class periods

Subject Areas: *Social Studies, Reading, Science, & Language Arts*

Skills: *Critical Thinking & Web Research*

Author: *Keith Summerford, Social Studies Teacher, Southview Middle School, Tuscaloosa, AL*

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