MY VILLAGE/THEIR VILLAGE PRE-VISIT LESSON

OVERVIEW

In this study, students will have the opportunity to compare their life with that of an enslaved child. Through the book Henry’s Freedom Box, plantation map, and images of plantation life, they will identify characteristics of a child’s experience working on a plantation. Afterwards, students will draw a picture of where they live and where an enslaved child lived. Then, they will write sentences about the differences and similarities.

This activity can be done anytime. It works well as an introduction to the Beyond the Oaks: Lowcountry Plantations exhibition on view at the Morris Center.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will cultivate awareness of historic events in South Carolina with a focus on plantation life.
- Students will practice using elements of art to create a visual image of where they live and a slave cabin on a plantation.
- Students will practice writing skills by describing where they live and where enslaved children lived.

SC State Standards:
Social Studies
K-1.2, K-4.1
1-1.2, 1-4.1
2-1.4, 2-4.2

SCCCR-Social Studies
K.H.3
1.H.3
2.H.3

English Language Arts
(I)2.1, 3.1, 3.2 (W) 3.1

Visual Arts
VA.CR.NM.1.1
Activity

- Introduce the activity to your students. *Today, we read a book about a child who lived on a plantation. He did not have the freedom to do what he wanted when he wanted. Sometimes he was treated badly because of the color of his skin.* [Read Henry’s Freedom Box.]

- Discuss the story with your students.
  - *What did Henry do everyday?*
  - *What do you do everyday? Is it different or the same as Henry’s life?*
  - *Where do you live? What does it look like?*
  - *Where did Henry live? What did it look like?*

- *Now, we will look at a map of a plantation and pictures of people on plantations.*

- Students can consider the following prompts as they explore the images.
  - *I see...I find...I spot...*
  - *What sounds would there be?*
  - *What smells would there be?*

- *You will now use pencils and colored pencils to draw a picture of where you live. After, you will draw a picture of where a child like Henry lived.* [Depending on the grade level you may want to give students some specific guidelines.]

- *Now, that you have drawn and colored your pictures, you will write about them. On a sheet of lined paper, write 1-2 sentences about each picture.*

- Students can share their stories and images to the class.
Family in front of a Slave Cabin
Planting Sweet Potato on an Edisto Island Plantation