



Maryland State Department of Education Service-Learning Unit

Costen House

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Worcester County

Primary Subject: U.S. History

Grade Level: 8

Additional Subject Area Connections:

Intergraded Language Arts
Algebra
Science

Unit Title:

Costen House

Type(s) of Service: Direct, Indirect and
Advocacy

Unit Description:

Enhance the appearance and increase visitation to buildings on the Historic Registry in Pocomoke City, Maryland.

Potential Service-Learning Action Experiences:

Students had the opportunity to enhance the landscape of the Costen House Museum by raking leaves, picking up trash and removing overgrown shrubs and flowers. They also grew and planted flowers that they researched to be appropriate to the time frame of the residence. Other plants and shrubs were also planted around the premises. Students also studied the history of Pocomoke City and the residence of Dr. Costen and conducted tours for visitors of the museum to help increase visitation and awareness to the museum. Students provided visitors with brochures they created in class.

Maryland State Curriculum Indicators Met

HISTORY OBJECTIVE

3.B.1 Analyze how geographic characteristics influenced the location and development of regions in the United States prior to 1877
5.B.4. Identify the push and pull factors responsible for immigration to the U.S. , such as the forced migration of Africans and Western European migration.
6.A.1 Use appropriate strategies and opportunities to increase understandings of social studies vocabulary and acquire and apply new vocabulary through investigating, listening, independent reading and discussing a variety of print and non-print sources.
6.C.1 Ask Social Studies questions
Identify topics and situations that require further study
6.D. Engage in field work that relates to the topic/situation/problem being studied.

Alignment with Maryland's Best Practices of Service-Learning: *The Costen House*

1. Meet a recognized community need

The need was to increase awareness and visitation to historical monuments. Students accomplished this by enhancing the appearance of the museum grounds and developing public awareness.

2. Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning

Curricular objectives were met through research of the area, the museum and its original residence. They grew and planted plants. They also measured and calculated volume and distance for mulch and plant placement. Student used research and computer skills to create brochures and conduct museum tours.

3. Reflect throughout the service-learning experience

Students reflected throughout the experience through journal writing.

4. Develop student responsibility (Students have opportunities to make decisions about the service-learning project.)

Students had the opportunity to plan work details and designate jobs to accomplish goals. They decided which plants to plant and a landscaping design.

5. Establish community partnerships

Students learned how to work with people in the community. They worked side-by-side with the museum curator and volunteers of the Spirit of Newtown Committee that are responsible for historical properties in the area. They learned gardening and landscaping skills from the grounds keeper.

6. Plan ahead for service-learning

Students were able to access the needs of the project and plan strategies and equipment needed to accomplish their goals. They researched information and supplies needed. They realized the importance of planning ahead to avoid being unprepared.



7. Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service

Students learned how to work with people in the community. They learned basic gardening and landscaping skills and the importance of being a productive, responsible and trustworthy member of society.

**Additional Interdisciplinary
Connections**



SCIENCE OBJECTIVES

1.A.1 Design and carry out simple investigations and formulate appropriate conclusions based on data obtained or provided.

1.A.1.h. Use mathematics to interpret and communicate data

1. C.1.a. Organize and present data in tables and graphs and identify relationships they reveal.

3.E.1.c Investigate and describe the processes that enable plants to use the energy from light to make sugars from carbon dioxide and water.

ILA OBJECTIVES

A.2.A Compose to express personal ideas by experimenting with a variety of forms and techniques suited to topic, audience, and purpose in order to develop a personal style, a distinctive voice, and a deliberate tone

A.2.B Compose to inform using relevant support and appropriate organizational structures while maintaining an objective perspective

A.2.C Compose to persuade by supporting, modifying, or refuting a position, using effective rhetorical strategies

MATH OBJECTIVES:

3.1.b Estimate and determine area of a composite figure

3.2. a Use proportional reasoning to solve measurement problems.

Created: 2009