

Somerset Historical Center School Tours

Pre-visit Information for

Life in the Glades

Our program focuses on early pioneer life in a region of southwestern Pennsylvania historically referred to as the Glades (now Somerset County). Glades were open areas covered with a tall native grass and were noted by many historical travelers because of their stark contrast to the dense forests usually found west of the Allegheny Mountains. The Glades fringed the wilderness beyond the mountains and opened for legal settlement in 1768.

Hearty settlers worked hard to build a farm and home amid a vast forest wilderness. Students will experience the life of those early settlers as they learn how land was acquired and farmsteads carved amid the dense forests. The processes of acquiring food, clothing, shelter and earning a living are examined throughout the day interspersed with hands-on activities.

Teachers may introduce the following vocabulary words to students prior to their visit.

Barter

Flax

Linen

Linsey-woolsey

Log Cabin

Log House

Daubing

Chinking

Packhorse

Apprentice

Artisan

Indentured servant