

Somerset Historical Center School Tours

Pre-visit Information for

Life in the Glades

Prior to 1795, our region of southwestern Pennsylvania was a part of Bedford County. Now known as Somerset County, this area was generally referred to as the Glades. A glade is an area of open land covered with tall, thick native grasses, ideal for grazing by both wildlife and domestic animals. Our program focuses on the early years of settlement in the glades region from the 1760's to the 1790's – hence the title of our program.

Settlers worked hard to build a farm and home amid a vast forest wilderness. Students will learn how settlers acquired and cleared the land, as well as how they met their basic needs. The concept of providing for a family's four basic needs of shelter, food, clothing, and earning a living will come alive throughout your day with us.

Just as life in the 1700's differed from today, many words used then will be new to your students. You may wish to introduce the following vocabulary words prior to your visit:

Bartering

Flax

Linen

Linsey-woolsey

Log Cabin

Chinking

Daubing

Log House

Packhorse

Apprentice

Artisan

Indentured servant