



Educator Information

Museum visit, scavenger hunt, pre- and post-visit activities

The Seminary Ridge Museum provides students with engaging and fun educational programs. All of our interactive activities and learning resources investigate historical content while also teaching critical thinking and analytical skills essential to the formation of the next generation of citizens and leaders. A visit to the Seminary Ridge Museum, and completion of scavenger hunts and pre- and post-visit activities, fulfills the following learning and affective objectives and adheres to both National Center for History in the Schools Standards in Historical Thinking and Content Standards and Common Core Standards.

Museum content:

The Seminary Ridge Museum is located in the original building of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, constructed in 1832. The building gives life to the stories that took place here during the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg and explores the social, moral, and ethical aspects of war, compassion and peace. Within the walls of the building where these events transpired, voices of history come to life to educate new generations about human conflict, causes and consequences of war, and the American spirit.

The museum focuses on three main themes relating to the Civil War: The first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, the care of the wounded, and issues of faith and freedom. Students have the opportunity to draw upon and analyze the Civil War period from multiple perspectives using accounts from Union and Confederate soldiers, civilians, and African-Americans. In doing so, students build skills in reading informational text, citing evidence, identifying causation, and analyzing the effectiveness of arguments. Post-visit writing activities encourage students to form personal connections to museum exhibits by synthesizing information they have learned and applying lessons of the Civil War era to their own lives.

Learning objectives (At the end of the visits and activities, students will be able to...)

- Recall the events of the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg.
- Describe the physical effects of combat on soldiers during and after the Battle of Gettysburg.
- Assess the treatment given to soldiers wounded during the Civil War.
- Analyze the arguments for and against slavery in the antebellum United States.
- Evaluate slavery as a cause of the Civil War.

Affective objectives (At the end of the visits and activities, students are expected to...):

- Demonstrate an understanding of the long-range effects of the antebellum and Civil War era, both on a societal and personal level.
- Recognize the need for balance between war and peace.
- Display historical empathy.
- Value critical thinking skills in responding to complex problems.

National Standards:

National Center for History in the Schools Historical Thinking Standards:

A museum visit builds students' skills in chronological thinking, historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretation, historical research capabilities, and historical issues decision-making and analysis.

National Center for History in the Schools Content Standards—Civil War and Reconstruction:

Standard 1A—The causes of the Civil War: The student understands how the North and South differed and how politics and ideologies led to the Civil War.

Standard 2A and 2B—The course and character of the Civil War and its effects on the American people: The student understands how the resources of the Union and Confederacy affected the course of the Civil War; the student understands the social experience of the war on the battlefield and home front.

Common Core State Standards (6-8): CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.1-.2, .4, .6-.8; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.1, .2, .4, .7, .8, .9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.1, .2, .4, .5, .6, .7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.1, .2, .3, .4, .6; CSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.1, .2, .3, .4, .6; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.2, .3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.7.2

Common Core State Standards (9-12): CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1-.6, .8-.9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1-.3, .5-.9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.1-.2, .4-.5, .7-.9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.11-12.1-.2, .4-.5, .7-.9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1-.2, .4-.9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1-.4, .6, .9; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.2, .3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.2, .3

For more information on National Center for History in the Schools standards, visit www.nchs.ucla.edu.

For more information on Common Core standards, visit www.corestandards.org.

For information on how this and other programs at the Seminary Ridge Museum meet state standards, contact Peter Miele, Director of Education and Museum Operations, at pmiele@seminaryridge.org.