

# THE EXPERIENCE OF KIDS



## ***Objective***

In small groups, students explore the roles, responsibilities and choices available to kids during the early 1800s.

## ***Standards***

Social Studies 5.A.2.b (grade 3)

Social Studies 6.F.1.a (grade 4)

Social Studies 6.F.1.a (grade 5)

## ***Grade level***

3 - 5

## ***Length of lesson***

60 minutes

## ***Materials from trunk***

Student worksheet for recording student experiences at each station.  
Objects for each station and related material for hands-on activities

- Station 1: Life at Play:
  - \* Game of Graces (hoops and sticks) and instructions
  - \* 9 Men's Morris game board, button game pieces and instructions
  - \* Game of checkers and instructions
  - \* Game of Marbles and instructions
  - \* Blackbeard's Revenge Puzzle and instructions
- Station 2: Life at Home:
  - \* Replica period clothes for boy and girl
  - \* Images of children from the time period (John Lewis Krimmel images)
  - \* Cooking utensils (mess kit)
  - \* Flint and steel
  - \* Soldier's housewife and sewing kit
  - \* Embroidery worksheet and instructions
  - \* Embroidery example
- Station 3: Life at Work:
  - \* *The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Knots & Ropework*, by Geoffrey Budworth
  - \* Rope
  - \* Bottle (for Bottle Sling Knot)
  - \* Cloth Sack (for Sack/Miller's Knot)

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- \* Youtube Videos of Knots (see Related Resources for Youtube links):
  - Bottle Sling Knot
  - Carrick Bend (Sailor's Knot)
  - Clove Hitch
  - Sack/Miller's Knot
  - Monkey's Fist
- Station 4: Literature on the War of 1812 (**Modification**)
  - \* Book: *The Story of the Star-Spangled Banner: By the Dawn's Early Light*, by Steven Kroll and Dan Andreasen
  - \* Book: *The Town that Fooled the British: A War of 1812 Story*, by Lisa Papp and Robert Papp
  - \* Book: *The War of 1812*, by Jill K. Mulhall

## *Materials from classroom*

- Life at Home:
  - \* Plastic embroidery sheets, cut into bookmark size

**\*NOTE: If possible, extra adults (one per station) can assist with facilitation. Soliciting parent volunteers is a good idea.**

## *Overview*

In this lesson, students cycle through three stations to explore various aspects of children's everyday life, work and play in the early 19th century (1800 – 1820). Students record their experiences and engage in a wrap-up discussion that makes comparisons between their lives and the lives of kids in the past.

## *Teacher Background*

In the early 19th century, children lived, worked and played in different ways than you do today. One might say that the pace of life was slower, more local, tied to the weather and seasons; health was more precarious; physical labor more common. While kids were not working all the time, they were more frequently a part of their family economies, assisting with chores and sometimes going to work outside the house. Of course social status, gender, ethnicity and region factored into one's roles, choices and responsibilities. During the War of 1812 in particular, families were separated (many fathers were in the military) and times were challenging. Children may have had to take on even more responsibilities at home during this time. See Related Resources for reference.

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## *Procedure*

1. In preparation for this lesson, set up stations in the classroom for each hands-on activity that small groups of students will cycle through.
2. Explain to students that they will be exploring each station in a small group for approximately 10 - 15 minutes. They should examine the objects at each station closely – what do they tell us about the experiences of kids living 200 years ago? Or during the War of 1812 specifically?
3. Hand each student a stations worksheet chart on which they can note their thoughts about the objects and activities. This chart and the experiences they have at each station will be the basis for the wrap-up discussion.
4. In small groups, students cycle through the stations.
5. After each group has experienced each station, lead a wrap-up discussion about some of the discoveries students made. What objects or hands-on activities did they encounter? What do these objects tell us about the experiences of kids during the early 19th century (cooperative work was important, certain choices were available to some and not others)? How might the War of 1812 have affected kids living in this region? In what ways might it (or might it not) have affected their lives?

## *Extensions*

- Students can choose one station, or a related issue, to explore more deeply. For example, they might research further the role children played in work (e.g. how were boys involved in military work such as being powder monkeys on ships, etc.). Research may be shared through a written report, dramatic monolog or journal entry.

## *Modifications*

- Time at each station should be modified to be appropriate for your class and unit of study.
- If time permits, teachers may add an additional station on Literature of the War of 1812. At this station, teachers can have three books for students to read over: 1) *The Town that Fooled the British*, 2) *By the Dawn's Early Light* and 3) *The War of 1812*. As they read, have students create an interactive bulletin board by writing questions to challenge each other and covering the answers (fold the bottom fourth of the paper, then cut it off and tape it back on). Have students share their questions with the class as a reading assessment tool.

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## *Related Resources*

Larkin, Jack

1989 *The Reshaping of Everyday Life 1790-1840*. New York: Harper Perennial.

Budworth, Geoffrey.

1999 *The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Knots*

Kroll, Steven

1994 *The Story of the Star-Spangled Banner: By the Dawn's Early Light*.

Mulhall, Jill K.

2005 *The War of 1812*.

Papp, Lisa

2011 *The Town that Fooled the British: A War of 1812 Story*.

## **You-Tube Videos**

Bottle Sling Knot:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtzPISxvHYc>

Carrick Bend (Sailor's Knot):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJdJKuQJuYE>

Clove Hitch:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shTbWHxYiWk>

Sack/Miller's Knot:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_IQpqzD2iyI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IQpqzD2iyI)

Monkey's Fist:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gp9w-T2d\\_NY&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gp9w-T2d_NY&feature=related)

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## *Experience of Kids During the War of 1812 Worksheet*

Use the following chart to record your experiences at each station

Task	Life at Play	Life at Work	Life at Home
Choose one Object to focus on at each station. Describe it in writing or sketch (draw) a picture of it.			
Is this object similar to other objects you use today? How is it different? How is it similar?			
What does this object tell us about the experiences of children during the early nineteenth century?			