

SILVER CITY MUSEUM

Teacher Resource Guide

Transport to the Past! - What is a Victorian?

Welcome to ***Transport to the Past! – What is a Victorian?*** This Core Experiential Learning Program will transport students through time to the Victorian Era. Students will learn about the Victorian era as it applies to the H. B. Ailman house and the Ailman family.

The Victorian Home

Many people in Victorian times lived in homes without any of the modern comforts we take for granted today. People had to manage without central heating or hot water from the tap – instead they had open fires and heated water on a big cooker called a range. Most Victorian houses had a fireplace in every room. Wealthy Victorians decorated their homes in the latest styles. There would be heavy curtains, flowery wallpaper, carpets and rugs, ornaments, well made furniture, paintings and plants. The rooms were heated by open coal fires and lighting was provided by candles and oil or gas lamps. Later in the Victorian period, electricity became more widespread and so electric lights were used.

The Ailman Home, 1881



Student Readings for the Parlor Unit

Children in Victorian Times (Step-up History) by Jill Barber

Victorian Days: Discover the Past with Fun Projects, Games, Activities, and Recipes
by David C. King

Victorian Schools (Life in the Past) by Mandy Ross

Victorian Homes (Life in the Past) by Mandy Ross

You Wouldn't Want to be a Victorian Schoolchild.. by John Malam

Mill Girl - a Victorian Girl's diary 1842 - 1843... by Sue Reid

Goals and Objectives for the Parlor Exhibit

Students will:

- Increase their understanding about the daily life of children and families living in the 1880's in a Victorian home.
- Compare and contrast their homes with the Ailman house.
- Learn how to play parlor games of the Victorian time period.
- Learn facts about the Ailman house.

Vocabulary for the Parlor Exhibit for grades 3 to 5

Diorama-a representation of a scene that is made to appear three-dimensional

Parlor-a living room that is set aside for entertaining guests

Recital-a musical or dance performance given by a soloist or small group

Nanny-somebody who is paid to take care of one or more children in a family home, often also living there

Vocabulary for grades K to 2

Servants - a person who performs duties for others, especially a person employed in a house on domestic duties or as a personal attendant.

Garment - an item of clothing.

Treasures - a quantity of precious metals, gems, or other valuable objects.

Rules - one of a set of explicit or understood regulations or principles governing conduct within a particular activity or sphere.

Common Core Standards

Speaking and Listening Standards K-5, #3

Writing Standards K-5, #3

Standards and Benchmarks for the Parlor Exhibit

STRAND : History

Content Standard I: Students are able to identify important people and events in order to analyze significant patterns, relationships, themes, ideas, beliefs, and turning points in New Mexico, United States, and world history in order to understand the complexity of the human experience.

2-1. Describe how historical people, groups, and events have influenced the local community.

3-1. Describe how the lives and contributions of people of New Mexico influenced local communities and regions.

4-1. Describe the role of contemporary figures and how their contributions and perspectives are creating impact in New Mexico.

5-1. Describe changes of governance of New Mexico (e.g., indigenous, Spanish, Mexican, French, Texan, confederate, United States).

Setting up your Silver City Museum Experience

Please complete fully the Core Experiential Learning Program Selection and School-to-Museum Transport Application.

Pre and Post Visit Activities

The pre and post-visit grade-level appropriate activities associated with this Core Experiential Learning Program are listed below along with a basic description of the activities. The New Mexico Common Core and/or Standards and Benchmarks that the activity supports are also listed.

Pre-Visit Activities

Pre-K through 1st

The pre-visit activity will acquaint the student with the H. B. Ailman home which houses the Silver City Museum and the concept of Victorian. Teachers will need to read The Victorian Home to the students and discuss the building picture.

Common Core: Speaking and Listening Standards, 3

2nd and 3rd Grade

This pre-visit activity will acquaint the students with games children their age would have played in the H. B. Ailman house during the Victorian era. Teachers will need to read Victorian Parlor Games to the students. Teachers may also want to create a Venn diagram for the entire class after the individual students have completed the activity.

Common Core: Writing Standards, 8

4th and 5th Grade

This pre-visit activity will introduce the students to a method historians use to track events through time and is commonly used in museums for interpretation. Teachers will need to read the Timelines – What are They? and discuss with the students.

Common Core: Speaking and Listening, 1

Post-Visit Activities

Pre-K through 1st

The post-visit activity provides the students with a list of artifacts including the Silver City Museum. Teachers can reinforce the idea of an artifact students learned in the museum tour. This activity can be done as a class.

Common Core: Speaking and Listening Standards, 3

2nd and 3rd Grade

This post-visit activity will allow the students to create an artifact that would have been in the H. B. Ailman home during the Victorian era. Students can answer the Victorian era questions individually or as a class.

Common Core: Speaking and Listening Standards, 3

4th and 5th Grade

This post-visit activity will allow students to create their own timeline. Students can use this to engage their families in discussing their own families.

Common Core: Writing Standards, 7

Additional pre and post activities are available in the Silver City Museum Teacher's Guide available on the Silver City Museum's website.