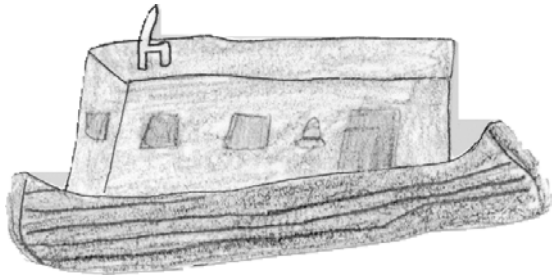


Bring Your Group to visit the



Drawing by Katie T. of Union Canal Elem.

Berks County Heritage Center

Developed as a historical interpretive center, students will have the opportunity to explore and learn in several museums and other attractions here on our site.

Guided tours will offer students a glimpse of several aspects of our local history and culture here in Berks County.

FACILITIES

The Gruber Wagon Works

This guided tour lasts 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Students will be able to see and learn about the intricate process of wagon making while discovering the workings of a rural factory, as well as the roles of the people who ran it.

The Gruber Wagon Works provides a lesson for students on simple machines, early industry and transportation, as well as local history.

C. Howard Hiester Canal Center

This 1-hour tour includes a video geared to elementary students, focusing on the everyday life of children living on the canals.

Students will discover the history of canals, the boats that traveled them, the operation of the locks and also the work, school, and play of children like themselves that lived on the boats 150 years ago. This tour can also be given with a more technical approach for middle and high school students.

"Mildred" the Houseboat

Mildred provides students with a glimpse inside a canal boat as well as the life of the people who lived on them. This hands-on program gives them the chance to play with old-fashioned toys and dress in the clothes of canal boat children. The "Mildred" program is ideal for younger children yet enjoyed by older kids as well. The program takes about 30 minutes.

Wertz's Covered Bridge

Allow 15 minutes for your students to walk across the bridge and learn a bit of its history from your guide. Bring along a flashlight so that you will be able to see the hundreds of Little Brown Bats that hang from the rafters.
(Late May through October)

Salad and Herb Garden

Take another 15 minutes to see the herb garden. Students will learn about the different plants and their uses.

They will have the opportunity to discover the things that early European Settlers used to flavor their food and treat illnesses.

Deppen Cemetery

A short walk through the field to see the cemetery will take about 15 minutes. Students will learn the history of the cemetery while seeing examples of German writing and fancy characters on some of the gravestones as are common to the history of our area.

Other Attractions at the Berks County Heritage Center

- ◆ The Bicentennial Eagle Memorial
- ◆ The Police Veteran's Memorial
- ◆ Snack Bar and Country Store available in the barn.

Your students may also enjoy a walk along the Union Canal Towpath Biking/Walking Trail, which you can do on your own using our Towpath brochure.

Design a Tour for Your Group

You may choose which museums and attractions you would like your students to see.

Choose what you would like to visit according to the time you have to spend here at the Heritage Center.

Your tour guide will gear the tour of the museums to the age of your students --but for pre-school age groups, be sure to include "Mildred" as it is the most age appropriate for small children.

Teachers are invited

to tour the facilities in advance to see if you would like to schedule a field trip for your students. Please call us (anytime of the year) to set-up a time.

Tour Notes

- ◆ Students and Teachers will be split up into groups of no more than 15 people.
- ◆ At least one adult should accompany each group of students (no more than 15, including adults).
- ◆ It helps us if you have your students divided into groups before you arrive.
- ◆ If you are bringing students of varied age, please divide them according to age.

Tour Details

- ◆ Advanced reservations should be made by calling (610) 374-8839. Please have several dates in mind when planning a tour.
- ◆ The Snack Bar and Country Store are available upon request.
- ◆ Please call if the number of children in your group changes significantly. It is important for us to know the appropriate number of volunteer tour guides needed.
- ◆ Restroom facilities and bus parking are available.

Museum Hours

May - October

Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 12 - 5:00 p.m.

*The last tour of the day leaves 1 hour before closing.

* Closed Monday *

(School tours can be scheduled to start at 9:15 a.m.)

The Berks County Heritage Center is available for tours beginning the last week in April through the last week in October.

The office at the Heritage Center is open Monday through Friday throughout the year to answer any questions you may have, or to schedule a field trip.

For Tour rates and information, call:
610-374-8839

Berks County



Drawing by David of Birdsboro Elementary

Heritage Center

An

Educational Field Trip

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