





See.
Connect.
Engage.
Investigate.
Learn.

John Deere Historic Site
In-classroom Curriculum | GRADES K-5

ABOUT THIS CURRICULUM

This curriculum was designed by educators and John Deere Attractions employees to help students get the most out of their John Deere Historic Site experiences. We developed these engaging pre- and post-visit lessons to teach students about the history and future of agriculture and the ways in which John Deere continues to impact lives around the world.

For more information on the curriculum, in-classroom resources, field trips, and other educational opportunities, explore [VisitJohnDeere.com/Education](https://www.visitjohndeere.com/education).

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PRE-VISIT LESSON: Discovering History

TOPIC	OBJECTIVES	CLASS TIME
Discovering History	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about archeology and the importance of understanding the people who have come before us • Learn about featured displays and exhibits 	30–35 min. (varies by grade level)

References

		LENGTH	GRADE
VIDEO:	Explore the John Deere Historic Site https://youtu.be/WJ3lddiPEgg <i>Take a quick tour of the Historic Site.</i>	30 sec.	K–5
SLIDESHOWS:	Digging for Answers <i>PowerPoint gallery featuring images of archeological sites, including the John Deere Historic Site.</i>	8 slides	K–5
	Artifacts of the Future <i>PowerPoint gallery featuring images of modern objects that might be found on a dig 200 years from now.</i>	10 slides	2–5
WORKSHEET:	Tools of the Trade <i>Describe the uses for common archeological tools.</i>	1 page	K–5

Discovering History: Grades K–1

DURATION: 30 minutes

- 1** Show the *Digging for Answers* slideshow of archeological sites, including the John Deere Historic Site. Use the questions below to focus the discussion before, during, and after the presentation of information. Slideshow notes are available in presentation mode.

Questions to guide the discussion:

- What is archeology?
 - What is an archeologist?
 - Why is it so important to excavate carefully?
 - What happens to artifacts after they are found?
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- 2** Hand out the *Tools of the Trade* worksheet featuring various tools used on an archeological dig, including trowels, shovels, screens, hand brooms, tape measures, and more. Have students work with a partner to determine the uses for these tools.
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- 3** Allow students to share their ideas. Use student responses to discuss the purposes of these archeological tools with the class.
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- 4** Show the *Explore the John Deere Historic Site* video. Explain to students that the archeological site is a big reason why we know so much about the blacksmith shop and family home, which they will also explore on their visit.

Discovering History: Grades 2–3

DURATION: 35 minutes

- 1** Show the *Digging for Answers* slideshow of archeological sites, including the John Deere Historic Site. Use the questions below to focus the discussion before, during, and after the presentation of information. Slideshow notes are available in presentation mode.

Questions to guide the discussion:

- What is archeology?
 - What is an archeologist?
 - Why is it so important to excavate carefully?
 - What happens to artifacts after they are found?
 - What do artifacts tell an archeologist?
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- 2** Hand out the *Tools of the Trade* worksheet featuring various tools used on an archeological dig, including trowels, shovels, screens, hand brooms, tape measures, and more. Have students work with a partner to determine the uses for these tools.
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- 3** Allow students to share their ideas. Use student responses to discuss the purposes of these archeological tools with the class.
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- 4** Show the *Artifacts of the Future* slideshow of objects that might be found if a dig were conducted 200 years from now on the school site. Guide students to develop the story each of these objects would tell future archeologists about school life today.
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- 5** Show the *Explore the John Deere Historic Site* video. Explain to students that the archeological site is a big reason why we know so much about the blacksmith shop and family home, which they will also explore on their visit.

Discovering History: Grades 4–5

DURATION: 35 minutes

- 1** Show the *Digging for Answers* slideshow of archeological sites, including the John Deere Historic Site. Use the questions below to focus the discussion before, during, and after the presentation of information. Slideshow notes are available in presentation mode.

Questions to guide the discussion:

- What is archeology?
 - What is an archeologist?
 - Why is it so important to excavate carefully?
 - What do artifacts tell an archeologist?
 - What happens to artifacts after they are found?
 - Why is archeology important?
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- 2** Hand out the *Tools of the Trade* worksheet featuring various tools used on an archeological dig, including trowels, shovels, screens, hand brooms, tape measures, and more. Have students work with a partner to determine the uses for these tools.
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- 3** Allow students to share their ideas. Use student responses to discuss the purposes of these archeological tools with the class.
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- 4** Show the *Artifacts of the Future* slideshow of objects that might be found if a dig were conducted 200 years from now on the school site. Guide students to develop the story each of these objects would tell future archeologists about school life today.
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- 5** Show the *Explore the John Deere Historic Site* video. Explain to students that the archeological site is a big reason why we know so much about the blacksmith shop and family home, which they will also explore on their visit.

POST-VISIT LESSON: Reliving the Past

TOPIC	OBJECTIVES	CLASS TIME
Reliving the Past	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share what they learned at the John Deere Historic Site• Understand the role of a blacksmith in pioneer times• Make comparisons of pioneer living to life today	35 min.

References

		LENGTH	GRADE
VIDEO:	John Deere Historic Site — Blacksmith https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEW22nxuJS0 <i>Watch a demonstration from a master blacksmith.</i>	3 min.	K–5
SLIDESHOW:	What Did You Learn? <i>PowerPoint gallery featuring images of signature Historic Site displays and exhibits.</i>	8 slides	K–5
WORKSHEETS:	John Deere the Man <i>Complete sentences about John Deere's life as a blacksmith selecting the correct multiple-choice answers.</i>	1 page	K–1
	John Deere the Man <i>Fill in the blank to complete sentences about John Deere's life as a blacksmith.</i>	1 page	2–5
	Hammer Away <i>Name the everyday tools used by blacksmiths.</i>	1 page	K–5

Reliving the Past: Grades K–1

DURATION: 35 minutes

- 1** **Show the *What Did You Learn?* slideshow of the John Deere Historic Site displays and exhibits.**
Have students share what they learned about each one. Slideshow notes are available in presentation mode.

- 2** **Show the *John Deere Historic Site — Blacksmith* video.**
Ask students what they learned about the role of a blacksmith — and what they liked best about the live demonstration experience.

- 3** **Hand out the *John Deere the Man* worksheet.**
Work together as a class to complete various sentences about John Deere’s life as a blacksmith and entrepreneur. When the class has completed the first half of the worksheet, ask the students to write about the blacksmith shop they toured on their visit.

- 4** **Hand out the *Hammer Away* worksheet featuring various tools used by blacksmiths,** including an anvil, bellows, forge, hardy, slack tub, sledgehammer, tongs, and vise. Have students work with a partner to match the tools to their respective names.

- 5** **Allow students to share their answers.**
Use student responses to remind the class about the uses for these tools — and discuss how the items made by blacksmiths were used by farmers and their families at home.

Reliving the Past: Grades 2–3

DURATION: 35 minutes

- 1** **Show the *What Did You Learn?* slideshow of the John Deere Historic Site displays and exhibits.**
Have students share what they learned about each one. Slideshow notes are available in presentation mode.

- 2** **Show the *John Deere Historic Site — Blacksmith* video.**
Ask students what they learned about the role of a blacksmith — and what they liked best about the live demonstration experience.

- 3** **Hand out the *John Deere the Man* worksheet.**
Work together as a class to complete various sentences about John Deere’s life as a blacksmith and entrepreneur. When the class has completed the first half of the worksheet, ask the students to write about the blacksmith shop they toured on their visit.

- 4** **Hand out the *Hammer Away* worksheet featuring various tools used by blacksmiths,** including an anvil, bellows, forge, hardy, slack tub, sledgehammer, tongs, and vise. Have students work with a partner to match the tools to their respective names.

- 5** **Allow students to share their answers.**
Use student responses to remind the class about the uses for these tools — and discuss how the items made by blacksmiths were used by farmers and their families at home.

Reliving the Past: Grades 4–5

DURATION: 35 minutes

- 1** **Show the *What Did You Learn?* slideshow of the John Deere Historic Site displays and exhibits.**
Have students share what they learned about each one. Slideshow notes are available in presentation mode.

- 2** **Show the *John Deere Historic Site — Blacksmith* video.**
Ask students what they learned about the role of a blacksmith — and what they liked best about the live demonstration experience.

- 3** **Hand out the *John Deere the Man* worksheet.**
Work together as a class to complete various sentences about John Deere's life as a blacksmith and entrepreneur. When the class has completed the first half of the worksheet, ask the students to write about the blacksmith shop they toured on their visit.

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