

## Self-Guided Homestead Tour

Your students will experience life in the 1880s with our Homestead Tour, which begins just inside the gates of Silver Dollar City.

- **McHaffie's Pioneer Homestead** – An authentic, working 1880s homestead, garden and barn complete with animals! Levy Casey built the left side of the McHaffie Homestead in 1843. The kitchen was added on the right side in 1844. Andrew and Amanda (Levy's daughter) McHaffie inherited the cabin not long after that and raised their family there. Most families could only ever hope for a single room dwelling. A two-room home was very rare.

In the kitchen area, you'll most likely find breakfast, lunch or dinner cooking on the 1891 stove. This stove was a very expensive luxury. Priced at \$19.95, this was a major purchase for families that may have only earned \$50 per year! **Hear interesting stories and folklore about early Ozark life at the Homestead during Storytelling with Aunt Judy!**

Since there was no electricity, radios or televisions, folks made their own entertainment. On special occasions, neighbors would gather together for music, singing and dancing! **Join the Homestead Pickers on the front porch of the Homestead for a sampling of traditional folk music. Check your daily show schedule for showtimes.**

- **Birdle's Cabin** – Once the home of Ozarkian Birdle Mannon, this cabin built in Brownbranch, Missouri in 1916, now resides behind D. Ellison's Basket Shop. For close to 90 years, Birdle lived in this authentic 2-room cabin, from 1916 until her passing in 1999, with no electricity, plumbing or running water. **Experience the simplicity of the life of an Ozark pioneer as you follow in the footsteps of Birdle.**
- **Shingle Saw** – Next to D. Ellison's Basket Shop, you'll find a rare and very old piece of machinery...an authentic J. D. Case steam-powered tractor! One of the first mechanical inventions to assist early pioneers in our area, this was a modern marvel!

Horses and mules were still widely used to clear land and perform heavy work, but tractors like this began a mechanical revolution. Powered by steam, these tractors provided muscle for the timber and farming industries that were vital to the region. There was no waste back in the olden-days, every piece sawed was used even down to the shavings which were found to repel insects and spiders around the homesteads. **Today, you'll see eastern red cedar (common to our area) cut into shingles on an 1877 horizontal saw.**

- **Log Hewing** – Step behind D. Ellison’s Basket Shop and visit with Mark Edwards, Silver Dollar City’s very own log hewer. Mark performs the same work that built the home for Levy Casey in 1843. The tree is selected to cut, hewn flat, notched on each end, and then set in place. **Mark demonstrates the dovetail notch used for setting the logs in place. This is the same notching you’ll see in McHaffie’s Homestead.**
- **Oak Trail Schoolhouse** – During the early days of schooling, all classes were held in one room and one teacher would typically have students in the first through eighth grades. Most children only went to school until 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade then began working to provide food and clothing for their family. The number of pupils varied from 6 to 40 or more. Students were seated by grade with the younger grades up front and the older grades in the back of the room. The most common subjects of study were reading, penmanship, arithmetic, history, and geography. Students would memorize and recite their lessons daily to the teacher. **Miss Bonnie Jean invites everyone to pick a desk, sit down and talk to her about school in the 1800s. Watch out for her tricky questions!**

Students often would have to walk great distances to attend school and therefore brought their lunches from home in a basket or lard pail. Lunch often would consist of whatever could be found around the homestead like molasses, lard and sugar sandwiches, cold pancakes leftover from the day’s breakfast, hard-boiled eggs or half-baked potatoes. Students often warmed their lunches on the school’s potbellied stove also used as the only source of heat during harsh winter months.

- **Wilderness Church** – Our authentic country church is a vintage log chapel originally built in 1849 along Bear Creek. Churches were often considered to be the center of social activity in the 1800s where neighbors would join together for traditional meetings and picnics on the grounds. The tree that stood where the church is now was hand-carved into the pulpit by Lester Vining. The pulpit is now over 200 years old. **Experience the warmth of the Wilderness Church.**
- **Swinging Bridge** – Built in the late 1800s, swinging bridges were literally “ the bridge to civilization” giving pedestrians access to town, especially when the river was high. Also known as suspension bridges, the decking or platform hangs from 2 thick overhead wire cables and the weight is carried horizontally to the far ends as you move across the bridge. The advantages to a swinging bridge versus a pier bridge in the 1880s was there was no obstruction to river users which was especially helpful in a mining town where the river was heavily used, and it took less money and supplies to build the bridge.

- **Then end your tour in Silver Dollar City's General Store** – A treat for families in the 1880s and the town's hot spot, general stores were filled with everything you would need or want. From tools and food supplies, to fabric for the making of clothes and shoes (if you didn't have an older sibling), the general store was your family's one-stop shop.

Since money was tight for many Ozark families, the store owner would allow exchanges or bartering of products from your homestead for things you could not produce. General stores played an important role in communities acting as the local bank, post office, telegraph office and supply store...if you couldn't find it in the store they would order it in from the big city!

## **Knowledge Standards** **Study Guide**

### **Knowledge Standards**

Students will acquire a solid foundation, which includes the knowledge of:

#### **Communication Arts Knowledge Standards**

- Comprehending and evaluating the content and artistic aspects of oral and visual presentations (such as storytelling)
- Participating in formal and informal presentations and discussions of issues and ideas
- Identifying and evaluating relationships between language and culture

#### **Fine Arts Knowledge Standards**

- Process and techniques for the production and exhibition of one or more of the visual arts
- The principles and elements of different art forms
- Visual arts in historical and cultural contexts

#### **Social Studies Knowledge Standards**

- Continuity and change in the history of Missouri, the United States and the world
- Economic concepts and principles (including the laws of supply and demand)
- The major elements of geographical study and analysis and their relationships to changes in society and environment
- Relationships of the individual and groups to institutions and cultural traditions
- The use of tools of social science inquiry (such as surveys, statistics, maps and documents)

## **Study Guide**

### **Questions: Homestead Tour**

1. What does the size of the McHaffie Homestead tell us about its original inhabitants?
2. How long did most students attend school in the 1880s, and why did they leave school?
3. Describe the benefit to the use of steam-powered tractors over animals?
4. Name two advantages to a swinging bridge.
5. Name the 4 functions of a general store.

### **Answers:**

1. They were "well-to-do".
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, to help provide food and clothing for their family
3. The beginning of the mechanical revolution, steam tractors provided more muscle at a faster pace than animals for the timber and farming industries that were vital to the region.
4. There would be no obstruction to river users which was especially helpful in a mining town where the river was heavily used, and it took less money and supplies to build this kind of bridge
5. It was the local bank, post office, telegraph office and supply store