

Printable Teaching Guide Virtual Field Trip – Philipsburg Manor

Objectives

Students will:

- Learn about the history of Philipsburg Manor.
- Discuss why someone might want to visit Philipsburg Manor.
- Create a travel advertisement that describes their favorite site in the manor.

Brief Description of Internet Site

The *Historic Hudson Valley* website provides facts about the history of Philipsburg Manor, as well as information and pictures of what the manor offers to visitors today.

Build Background

- Explain to students that Philipsburg Manor is located in the Hudson River Valley. It was owned by Frederick Philipse, the richest man in the New York colony in the 1700s. Ask: *Where does the tradition of manor houses originate from?* (The manor house comes from medieval Europe. Lords from that time lived in large manors on their estates. Medieval manors were usually well protected by a moat or a wall in case of attack.)
- Tell students that *Pinkster* is a Dutch-African word for the Dutch word *Pinksteren*, which means “Pentecost.” Pinkster Day is an annual festival. Originally, African workers celebrated spring on this day. Ask: *How did Pinkster Day come to be celebrated at Philipsburg Manor?* (Dutch settlers brought this tradition with them to North America, where it evolved into a holiday that African Americans celebrated in the spring. Both enslaved and free Africans celebrated the holiday, to which they added traditions from their own culture.)
- Tell students that the Herb Garden at Philipsburg Manor was used for more than spicing up the Philipse meals. In colonial times herbs had many uses, such as to be ingredients in tonics, which are medicines that help invigorate or strengthen someone. Ask: *What else were herbs used for?* (Herbs were also used as medicines to cure illnesses. People kept herb gardens in order to have the plants they needed to remain healthy.)
- Tell students that Philipsburg Manor has four buildings, one of which is the Manor House. Ask: *What was the Manor House used for in the 1700s?* (The Philipse conducted all their business in the Manor House.)

Teach

What to do:

- Connect to: <http://www.hudsonvalley.org/philipsburg/index.htm>
- Read to the class the history of Philipsburg Manor. Ask: *What does Philipsburg Manor offer to visitors?* (Today, you can visit and experience life on a working manor in the early days of New York.)
- Select Pinkster Celebration and click on About Pinkster. Ask: *How did Africans and Europeans celebrate Pinkster?* (Africans and Europeans alike enjoyed drinking, game-playing, dance, and music at Pinkster.)
- Select Garden and read to the class about the Philipsburg Manor Herb Garden. Ask: *Why was it common practice in rural 1700s to allocate garden plots to enslaved men and women?* (Garden plots were allocated to enslaved men and women so that they could grow food for themselves.)

- Select The Manor House and read aloud to the class. Ask: *Which room in the Manor House is your favorite?* (Answers will vary.)

Close

- Have students discuss what they learned during the virtual field trip.
- Have students create a travel advertisement individually or in groups. Then have students present their advertisements to the class.