

SPACE SCHOOL

About this Lesson

A. General Citation

This lesson explores the use of National Landmark Sites located in Hampton, VA on NASA Langley Research Center and Langley Air Force Base property. Information about the plantations comes from archeological evaluations of the sites.

B. Where it fits into the curriculum

This lesson is appropriate for students studying colonial history or Virginia history.

Time Period: 1630-1940

Standards Addressed:

United States History Standards for grades K-12:

Era 2: Colonization and Settlement (1585-1763)

- Standard 3A: The student understands colonial economic life and labor systems in the Americas.

This lesson also covers the following Virginia Standards of Learning:

Virginia Studies

VS.1 The student will develop skills for historical and geographical analysis including the ability to

- a) identify and interpret artifacts and primary and secondary source documents to understand events in history;
- b) determine cause and effect relationships;
- c) compare and contrast historical events;
- d) draw conclusions and make generalizations;
- e) make connections between past and present;
- g) interpret ideas and events from different historical perspectives;
- h) evaluate and discuss issues orally and in writing;
- i) analyze and interpret maps to explain relationships among landforms, water features, climatic characteristics, and historical events.

C. Objectives for students

- 1) To examine property distribution by the crown in Virginia.
- 2) To describe land use and holdings and examine land transfers within families.
- 3) To examine challenges faced by property owners during reconstruction.

D. Materials for students

- 1) Computer with internet access
- 2) GIS enhanced historical maps of Hampton, VA (online).
- 3) Readings from site descriptions.

- 4) Photograph in lesson plan.
- 5) Writing implement such as a pencil.
- 6) Student Worksheet.

E. Visiting the sites

NASA Langley Research Center (www.vasc.org)

The Virginia Air and Space Center is the official visitors' center for NASA Langley Research Center. It is located in downtown Hampton, VA, on the main street, Settlers Landing Road.

III. Teaching Activities

A. Getting Started

- Begin with showing students. Ask students "What do you think is happening in these photos?" Let students brainstorm as a class and record their ideas. This photo will be seen during the lesson at the Chesterville plantation site.

B. Setting the Stage

- Using the student worksheet, ask students to read the following passage. This serves as an introduction to the activity. After reading and discussing the passage, ask students "What kinds of challenges do you think early Hampton residents encountered? Do you think it was easier or harder to settle in Hampton instead of Jamestown?"

NASA Langley Research Center was not always present on the land off the Little Back River in Hampton, VA. Just as your family has a history, the land has its own history of human inhabitation. The first humans who left lasting evidence (that has been recovered) on the land were Native Americans around 1200-800 BC. Archaeologists suspect the Native Americans used the area for hunting and fishing. There is no evidence of a permanent Native American settlement on the property.

After the colonists arrived in Hampton, the land was cultivated for farming. Settlers grew corn and wheat, and some harvested oysters on the banks of the Little Back River. One notable resident of the property was George Wythe, a professor, judge, and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

C. Locating the Site

See online GIS maps Historical Series. Students can use this map to answer the student worksheet questions. (<http://gis.larc.nasa.gov/>)

- #### D. Putting it all together.
- The student worksheet asks students to define ten words. This portion of the worksheet should be completed prior to visiting the website.

The last three questions are designed to be answered after exploring the plantation websites.

E. Supplementary Resources

- The Langley Research Center and websites which contain historical information, educational content, and current missions information. (<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/langley/home/index.html>)
- Langley Research Center visitor's center. The center showcases past and present NASA missions, and each center highlights current research currently underway at its host center. (www.vasc.org)
- The Hampton History Museum's exhibits document the past 400 years of Hampton's history. The museum also has SOL aligned programs for school groups. (http://www.hampton.gov/history_museum/)