

PRE-VISIT: NEW SWEDEN COLONY

LESSON OVERVIEW:

Welcome to the educational adventures of New Sweden! This pre-activity plan is a tool for teachers to provide a classroom introduction ASHM's lesson on *The New Sweden Colony*. Upon entering the museum students will be invited to explore a day in the life of Swedish settlers, how New Sweden was established, the trade and relationship with the Lenape tribe and how the Delaware Valley has been influenced and shaped by Swedish Settlers.

We hope you will find the following information helpful in preparing your class for their visit to the American Swedish Historical Museum (ASHM).

ABOUT ASHM

The American Swedish Historical Museum in South Philadelphia is the oldest Swedish Museum in the United States. Founded in 1926, the museum has been dedicated to preserving and promoting Swedish and Swedish-American cultural heritage and traditions for more than 80 years. The museum is a place where Swedes, Swedish-Americans, and people of all nationalities can explore Swedish contributions to history, art, architecture, music, science and technology.



VOCABULARY:

Colony– A group of people who leave their home country to form a settlement on new land.

Delaware Valley– The region on land along the Delaware River that includes New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Lenape – Native Americans who lived in the Delaware Valley region and provided the New Sweden Colony with methods of fishing and farming.

New Sweden – A Swedish Colony that settled along the Delaware River in 1638 in parts of Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

WHAT CAN I SHARE?

The Swedes and Lenape shared skills and resources such as farming and fishing techniques. There was little conflict among settlers and Lenape because both groups of people understood how to get along, share and help each other.

Pose Question to Students: *If someone from far away came to live in your neighborhood, what skills or important things could you share with them?*

Example 1: "I like to make friends by playing basketball. I could teach my new neighbor how to dribble a ball."

Example 2: "I like to plant things. I could show my neighbor a trowel and how we use the tool to garden. "

Conclude by asking why it is important to share skills and resources with other people. Talk about trade and forming of colonies such as New Sweden. Ask students how people must act toward each other in order to share land and space.

MAPS:

Visit New Sweden on *Google Maps!* (Also linked to the ASHM website)

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&vps=1&jsv=329b&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=207199823356431132133.0004925b4cca26b3101b4>

NAVIGATION:

New Swedish Settlers came from across the sea and had to understand navigational practices. Have students learn about the different parts of the compass and cardinal directions. Follow up by playing a game of *I-Spy*.

Example: leader says, "I spy something red." Second student tries to guess where in the classroom the object could be located based on the cardinal directions. "Is it north of where you are standing?"