



Discover Portage Road Lesson Plan

Demler Historical Marker

Subject Area: Social Studies

Grades 6-8

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New York State Social Studies Learning Standards

Standard 1

History of the United States and New York

Students will:

- **Use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States and New York.**
- Distinguish between near and distant past and interpret simple timelines,
- Investigate key turning points in New York State and United States history and explain why these events or developments are significant.
- Gather and organize information about the important achievements and contributions of individuals and groups living in New York State and the United States,
- Prepare essays and oral reports about the important social, political, economic, scientific, technological, and cultural developments, issues, and events from New York State and United States history.

Overview

The Fort Demler Marker is in Lewiston, New York, in Niagara County. It can be reached from South 4th Street south of Tuscarora Street. This historical marker is located on the grounds of the Earl W. Brydges Artpark. To get to this historic marker, visitors must take South 4th Street south all the way to where the road ends, at the entrance to the Earl W. Brydges Artpark. The historic marker is on the grounds of the artpark, on a section of land just southwest of the first large parking area, near the Niagara River.

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By Dale K. Benington, June 11, 2012

Fort Demler Marker: The small square outline, seen on the surface of the ground, just behind the historical marker, is the archaeological site of Fort Demler.

Source: <http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=66322>

Activity

Students will read the inscription on the Fort Demler Historical Marker and match answers to the descriptions.

Inscription. The British gained control of the region in 1759 and, in 1762, constructed a small post, Fort Demler, to protect the landing area. Initially garrisoned by a platoon of eight soldiers, the fort consisted of a small, two-room guardhouse and a 54' by 22' log storehouse all enclosed by a timber stockade and a shallow ditch. The garrison guarded the Landing and helped build the Cradles, which were used to help transport goods up the Portage. In 1763, the fort was attacked by Indian warriors intent upon disrupting the British supply lines. The Indians managed to kill half of the garrison before troops from Fort Niagara came to its aid. The fort was finally destroyed by fire in 1767.

Fort Demler was one of several forts, including Fort Denonville, Fort Conti, and Fort Niagara, constructed by the French and the British to protect the Portage between the Lower and Upper Landings.

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	Description		Answers
1.	Year British gained control of the Niagara Region	A	1762
2	Year Fort Demler was constructed	B	a platoon of eight soldiers
3	Original garrison	C	Used used to help transport goods up the Portage
4.	The Landing and the Cradles	D	1759
5/	Year fort was attacked by Indians	E	1767
6.	Purpose of Indian Attack	F	Fort Denonville, Fort Conti, and Fort Niagara,
7.	Source of troops helped the British who were under attack	G	1763
8	Year Fort Demler was destroyed by fire	H	the Portage between the Lower and Upper Landings.
9.	Area that was guarded	I	Fort Niagaga
10	Other forts constructed by the French and British to protect the Portage	J	To disrupt British supply lines

Answers

	Descriptions		Answers
1.	Year British gained control of the Niagara Region	D	1759
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3	Original garrison	B	a platoon of eight soldiers
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5/	Year fort was attacked by Indians	G	1763
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7.	Source of troops helped the British who were under attack	I	Fort Niagaga
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References

Historical Marker Data Base. *Fort Demler The British fortify the Portage route* at
www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=6632