



Discover Portage Road Lesson Plan

The Frontier House
Subject Area: Social Studies
Grades 6-8

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 Frontier House is located at 460 Center Street, Lewiston, New York. Built in 1824, it was regarded as the best hotel west of Albany. , At the time, Lewiston attracted more visitors. Benjamin Barton, Samuel Barton and Joshua Fairbank, prominent Lewiston businessmen, headed the building of the tavern. .Over an eighteen-month period, eighteen men shaped the walls with stone from Canada. When the building was erected, Lewiston attracted more people than the city of Buffalo, New York.

When completed, the rectangular building stood four stories high. Its rectangular shape, double parallel chimneys, oval windows, full width porch and hipped roof are consistent with the Federal style of architecture. The first floor served as offices, the second floor was a luxurious ballroom. The third floor included fourteen bedrooms with fireplaces and the fourth floor was used for meetings, famously for free masons. During the nineteenth century, ten coach trains arrived and departed daily from the Frontier House. The structure was added to the National Register of Historic places on July 8, 1974.

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Activity

Students will use print and non-print resources to match the names of the following distinguished guests who visited the Frontier House: with their achievements;

	Name	Answer	Description
1	DeWitt Clinton	A.	British author of A Christmas Carol, David Copperfield and A Tale of Two Cities
2	Jenny Lind	B.	American author and humorist who used the pen name “Mark Twain”
3	John L. Sullivan	C.	A leading American statesman and senator from Massachusetts during the period leading up to the Civil War. Who served as was appointed the United States Secretary of State under three presidents.
4	Henry Clay	D.	25 th President of the United States
5	William McKinley	E.	United States Senator from Kentucky who served three terms as Speaker of the House of Representatives and also Secretary of State
6	Charles Dickens	F.	The first Heavyweight Champion of gloved boxing from February 7, 1882, to 1892,
7	Daniel Webster	G.	Governor of New York Who Was Responsible for the Development of the Erie Canal
8	Samuel Clemens	H.	Swedish Opera Singer

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Answers

	Name	Answer
1	DeWitt Clinton	G
2	Jenny Lind	H
3	John L. Sullivan	F
4	Henry Clay	E
5	William McKinley	D
6	Charles Dickens	A
7	Daniel Webster	C
8	Samuel Clemens	B

References

Dictionary of New York Historic Places, Volume Two. New York: Somerset Publishers, 1997.

Dietz, Suzzane Simon. *Lewiston.* Chicago: Arcadia Publishing, 2006.

Frontier House (Lewiston, New York) at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frontier_House_%28Lewiston,_New_York%29

Laurie, Margaret S. *Lewiston: Crown Jewel of Niagara.* Niagara Falls Book Corner, 2001.