

Cape Florida Lighthouse Pre and Post Visit Activities

Introduction:

The following are a list of ideas of how to introduce the rich history of southern Florida, inquire about the threats to these special places, and discover ways that we can make a difference in Miami's preservation. We recommend these ideas be used as pre- and/or post-visit lessons for this historic site visit.

Grades:

3-12

Objectives for PROGRAM:

- Students will identify and study the unique Tropical Hardwood Hammock habitat, its uses by humans in the last 10,000 years, and the significant environmental threats and restoration efforts within the confines of this park.
- Students will identify the conflicts that arose among people over the resources of south Florida.
- Students will understand that where we live influences how we live.

Vocabulary:

Adaptation

Attack

Camouflage

Coral

Cottage

Edible

Erosion

Fresnel Lens

Keeper

Lantern

Lighthouse

Underground Railroad

Introduction to the site (for teacher to familiarize themselves with the site):

In 1825 the Cape Florida Lighthouse was built to serve as an important link in a network of lighthouses along the Atlantic Coast of the United States. The lighthouse is the oldest building in South Florida. As such it has had an interesting history: from a Seminole attack in 1835, to the cape's use as an Underground Railroad stop for slaves escaping to the Bahamas. The park also offers a look at Miami's unique environment, from the beginnings of a reef to a tropical hardwood hammock.

Pre-Visit Conversations

Activity 1: What is in a museum?

Duration of Activity: 40 minutes

Objectives of activity:

- To introduce students to collections and in particular those at HistoryMiami.
- The museum collects within four categories, Documents, Fossils, Artifacts and Replicas.

Instructions:

STUDENTS:

Take out a piece of paper

Fold the paper in half (vertically)

Number both halves of paper from 1-10

Label the upper left side: My Collections and the upper right side: Museum's Collections

Write down what you collect on the left and what you think the museum collects on the right.

TEACHER:

A book, letter or map (a document), a rock or leaf (can be a fossil someday), an object that is authentic (an artifact like a family heirloom) and an object that is a replica (maybe a piece of costume jewelry)

- After everyone has done this, have students share some of their collections.
- Then have students share their ideas for a museum collection (there is no right or wrong)
 - You can then share with the students the four things you put aside
 - Have them try to put them into categories (documents, fossils, artifacts and replicas)
 - You can share with them that these are the four categories the Museum at HistoryMiami collects in.
 - Have the students try to pull four similar object from their person – their textbooks, something from their backpack – they will see how they are carrying collections with them at all times as well.
 - Have students explain WHY those pieces from the collection are in the category they are in.

Key questions for students:

- What is a collection?
- Why do people collect?
- Why do museums collect?

Activity 2: South Florida's plant life

Duration of Activity: 45 minutes

Objectives of Activity:

- To have students gain an understanding of the various plants of South Florida.

Materials

- A collection of leaves from around the school.
- Crayons
- Attached objects study sheets
- Plain sheets of paper

Instructions:

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1. The instructor shows the class a leaf and encourages them to answer questions on the attached natural objects study sheet
2. The students then create rubbings of the leaves and label them to create a wall hanging for your room.

Activity 3: Lighthouse Map

Duration of Activity: 20 minutes

Objectives of Activity:

- To familiarize students with maps, and the use of lighthouses.

Materials

- Copies of the attached image and worksheet

Instructions:

1. Have students look at the map and answer the questions on the attached worksheet.

Post-Visit Conversations

Activity 1: Draw it out!

Duration of Activity: 60 minutes

Objectives:

- The students demonstrate that they have learned, understood, and remembered the content of the Cape Florida Lighthouse Program

Instructions:

1. Divide students into groups, groups of 4 students are ideal.
2. Have students create a 6-8 frame cartoon strip about the Seminole attack on the lighthouse.

Other Potential Post-Visit Ideas

Clean-Up Activity: Take part in and/or organize a clean-up activity in the community.

Create a Podcast: Choose one of the ideas you discussed on how you can help the environment and create a podcast telling others how they can do it too!

Activity 2: Log writing

Duration of Activity: 15 minutes or homework

Objectives:

- Students will reflect on their visit and connect with their growth.

Instructions:

After the museum visit, students will spend time writing a personal log. This will help with retention of information they have gathered.

Key Questions for students:

- Where and when did you go?
- What did you see, hear, touch, do?
- What was your favorite part? – Why?
- What new piece of information changed the way you thought about the world? – Why?
- Which words and ideas stood out the most? – Why?

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- What do you think about the experience?
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Thank You!

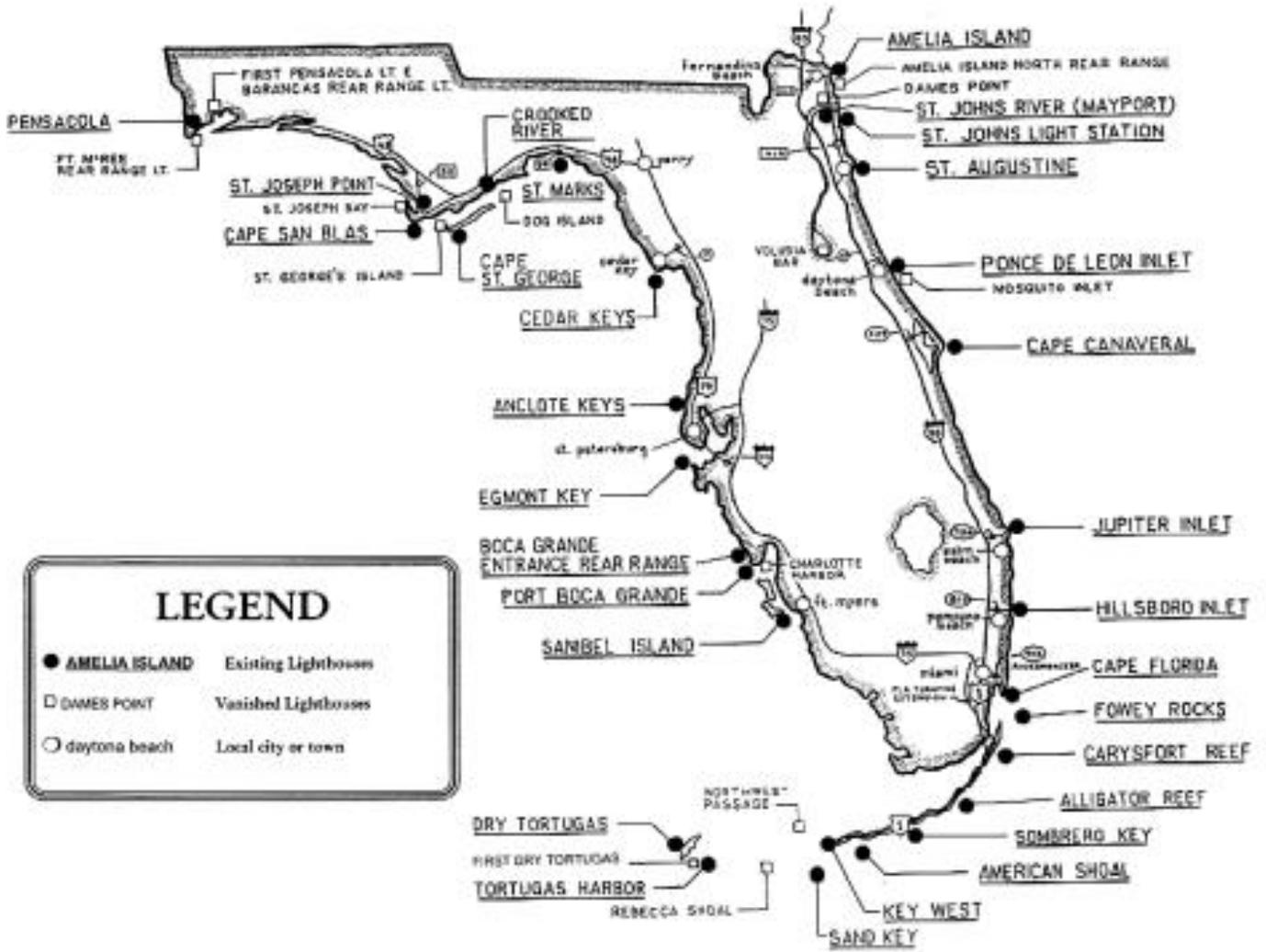
Thank you again for your participation and we look forward to working with you again soon!

We have many programs available, as well as professional development workshops for object and inquiry based approaches to learning and the Picturing America series.

At HistoryMiami we offer more than 10 different educational programs. These are listed on our website www.historymiami.org and can also be seen in our brochure.

Regards,

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1. What is the map showing? _____
2. Why do you think lighthouses are on the water?

3. Why do you think Florida has so many lighthouses?

4. Can you find the lighthouse closest to us? _____

If you need a sign language interpreter, or materials in accessible format, please call 305-375-5379 or email: accessibility@historymiami.org.

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