

## **OX CART MAN**

Donald Hall's book "Ox Cart Man" is the source of a new focused tour of the Farmers' Museum. Although the setting of the book is New England, and the time frame is earlier than that associated with the museum, the activities portrayed in the text and in most of the illustrations can be found on the grounds of the Farmers' Museum. Several sites in the Nineteenth Century Village plus the agricultural activities at the historic Lippett Farmstead provide an accurate reenactment of the story line.

Young scholars, K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, will experience through story narration and illustration, visual presentation, and interactive activities the story of a local farmer and his family in the distant past. The book contains three principal themes: the preparation for the journey to market, the sales of his goods and the purchases made for home and family, and the return to the farmstead and seasonal agricultural life.

This is an opportunity to bring young learners to the world of "a long, long time ago", and to the life styles and activities of the people who lived in that world. The story covers a period of four seasons throughout a year in which a farmer and his family make and grow the items that he will bring to the market to sell in the fall.

In preparation for your visit, the lesson and activities included in this packet will allow you and your students to become acquainted with the story. They will learn about the man and his family, the activities that had to be accomplished before his trip with a loaded ox drawn cart, market day with his sales and purchases, and the return home to start all over again for another future trip.

## **OX CART MAN**

What to Expect During Your Tour.

**Tour Theme:** To tour the Farmers' Museum in small groups and to experience, using the facilities of the museum, the story of an ox cart man.

**Tour Format:** Upon arrival, each tour group is assigned a Museum Teacher.

- Tours depart the Main Barn and include an introduction to the museum and visits to historic buildings and sites that relate to the story line.
- During the tour students will have the opportunity to participate in hands on activities, including historic games.
- The tour will conclude with the return to the Main Barn.
- Shopping is available at the Museum Shops after the completion of the tour.

The recommended time for a tour for the youngest students is one hour, for second grade a tour of one and one half hours.

**TOUR OBJECTIVES = New York State Learning Standards.**

1. English Language Arts Standard 1.1  
Listening and reading to acquire information and understanding.
  - Gather and interpret information from children's books.
  - Ask specific question to clarify and extend meaning.
2. English Language Arts Standard 4.1  
Oral communication in formal and informal settings.
  - Listen attentively and recognize when to speak.
  - Take turns speaking and responding to other ideas.
3. Social Studies Standard 1.2  
Important ideas, social values and traditions that illustrate interactions of people across time.
  - Gather and organize information about traditions of groups living in a community.
  - Distinguish between near and distant past, and understand simple time frames.

4. Economics Standard 4.1

The study of Economics requires an understanding of economic concepts, economic decision making, and the interdependence of economic systems.

- Know some ways individuals and groups attempt to satisfy basic needs and wants.
- Study about how the availability and distribution of resources is important for economic growth.

## EXPLORING “OX CART MAN”.

### OVERVIEW:

Students will through reading and discussion become familiar with the story line of “Ox Cart Man”. Students will explore the life style of a farmer and his family, the seasons of the year, the economic wants and needs of people a long time ago, and how to satisfy those wants and needs.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To become familiar with the ox cart man, a New England farmer, his family and life on the farm.
- To travel from the farm to the market place, sell and purchase, and return home.
- To discuss life in the distant past, that is “a long time ago”.
- To compare life then (19<sup>th</sup> Century) and the students’ lives today(21<sup>st</sup> Century)

### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

1. English Language Arts Standard 2.1.  
Listening and reading for literacy response.
  - Understand the elements of setting, character, plot and theme.
  - Compare those factors in the story to the students’ lives today.
2. Social Studies Standard 1.3  
Study about social, political and economic developments.
  - Gather and organize information about the accomplishments of individuals and groups living in their communities, both then and now.
  - Classify information by type of activity: social, economic.
- 3 Economic Standard 4.2.  
Economics requires the development and application of skills needed to make reasonable economic decisions in daily life.
  - Locate economic information using a variety of sources.
  - Develop ideas about economic issues and problems.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES.

1. Obtain and read the book, “Ox Cart man”. Have the students look at the words and the illustrations.
2. Have on hand:
  - Illustrations/pictures of an ox and oxen.
  - Pictures of 1800 type carts, wagons, carriages and coaches.
  - Wool yarn.
  - Mittens and woolen products.
  - Linen cloth.
  - Hand made candles.

3. Compare:
 

• Travel	19 <sup>th</sup> Century	21 <sup>st</sup> Century
• Markets	“	“
• Shopping	“	“
• Home Production	“	“

<u>Today</u>	<u>Yesterday</u>
Meals at home	Home cooking
Knitting sweaters	Home production
Embroidery	Home production
Gardening	Farming
Frozen food/ pizza	Local produce

4. The Seasons of the Year.  
Discuss and contrast the idea of seasons and seasonal activities as experienced today and as portrayed in the book.

	<u>Now</u>	<u>Then</u>
Spring	Gardening School	Planting crops, shearing sheep No school – planting time
Summer	Vacations  No school	Tending fields and crops, Early harvest School – Summer term
Fall	Farmers markets School in September	Harvest time No school – working the harvest
Winter	School Winter sports Vacations in Florida.	School – winter term Home production Farm work

5. A Living History Museum.

Discuss The Farmers' Museum as a living history museum. What are the students going to see and experience?

- Farmers?
- Animals?
- People working on the farm?
- An old time village?
- Historic buildings?
- People in historic clothing?
- Interpreters working with hand tools?
- Tradesmen and craftsmen?