

Glen Leven Farm and Nashville: From Wilderness to War

Grades: 3rd and 4th

Subjects: Social Studies - History

Curriculum Standards:

3rd grade:

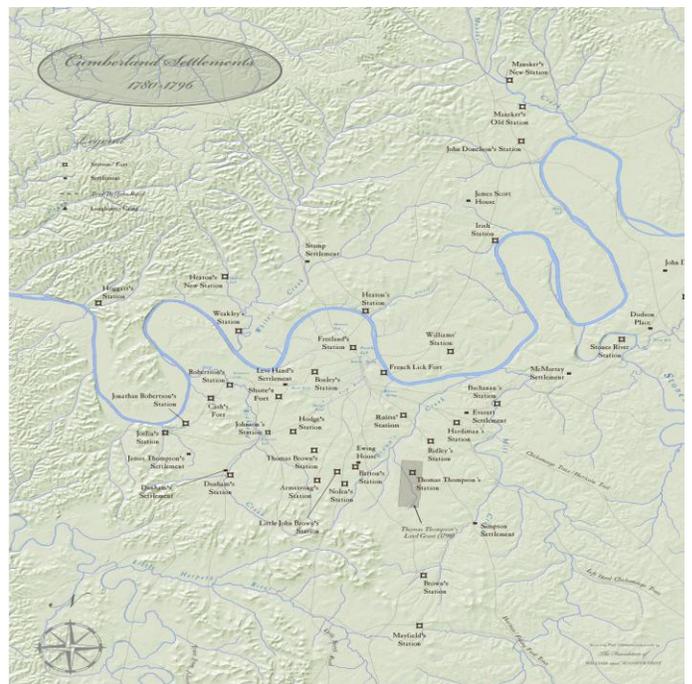
- 3.5.01** Identify major events, people, and patterns in Tennessee, United States, and world history.
- 3.5.01 a.** Identify historical figures that helped to shape regions.
- 3.5.03** Explain how to use historical information acquired from a variety of sources.
- 3.5.03** Identify factors that cause development and change in communities.

4th grade:

- 4.5.03** Summarize reasons for European exploration and settlement of Tennessee and the Western Hemisphere.
- 4.5.09** Recognize major events, people, and patterns in Tennessee.

Overview:

The history of the Glen Leven landscape parallels major trends in national, state, and local history. Narration about events and trends from westward settlement up to the Civil War informs students of the history of Nashville and will allow them to understand the connection between local places and the country at large, and the effects of change. Students will also learn and understand the importance of saving



Map of Cumberland Settlements, 1780-1796



places such as Glen Leven in the face of changes that we continue to confront both locally and nationally.

Goals:

- Understand how places came to be how they appear today (example: wilderness → settlement → growth/development of area → Nashville as we know it today).
- Understand historic events had consequences that led to change.
- Understand the meaning of historic significance.
- Understand historic sites as unique and non-renewable sources that teach us about the past.
- Make students aware of the contributions of the antebellum African American community
- Basic understanding of Nashville settlement history

Investigative Questions:

What motivated early Americans to settle the wilderness?

What factors help an area develop and grow?

Activity:

During the visit to Glen Leven and tour of the historic home narrated by a descendent of one of the families that settled Nashville, students will learn about:

- The trend of westward settlement in the United States and why people moved west (land grants as a form of payment for military service, economic opportunity, etc.)
- The settlement of Nashville. Why at this specific location?
- The importance of first settlers, such as Thomas Thompson, who helped establish the Nashville settlement/Cumberland Compact



- Thomas Thompson's children, who participated in the development of Nashville's commerce, agriculture, and transportation
- The value of transportation in the development of a city or town and its role as an agent of change, especially railroads.
- The reason for place names, including Thompson Lane and Wedgewood Avenue (both connected to Glen Leven)
- The strategic (central) location Nashville occupies
- Glen Leven and the Thompson family's experiences during the Civil War (house used as a field hospital, soldiers taking products from the farm, etc.)
- The role that slavery played at Glen Leven

At the end of the tour, students will be confronted with the idea of historical importance and assess why we save landscapes and structures that connect us to our past.

- What makes something "important"?
- How do we know the things we know about Glen Leven? (oral tradition, pictures, newspapers, etc.)
- What makes a place historic?
- Why would we want to save places that are important to our history?

Assessment:

Possible post-teach:

3rd grade

3.5tpi.6. Identify people, events, areas, and ideas that create a history of place

4th grade

4.5.tpi.7. Identify the contributions of early pioneers to the development of Tennessee and America

Reflecting upon and drawing from their experience at Glen Leven, have students write about what it must have been like to be a child in a frontier settlement, developing city, or a city in



the middle of war. Highlight the absence of technology we are accustomed to today including cars, telephones, computers, electricity, indoor plumbing, etc.

Have students identify an object or place that is important to them, explaining why it is so, and address the impact of the possible loss of that important place or item.