



The Land Trust works to preserve the unique character of Tennessee's natural and historic landscapes and sites for future generations.

Historical Thinking

Grades: 3rd and 4th

Subjects: Social Studies - History

Curriculum Standards:

3rd grade:

3.5.02b Describe how individuals, events, and ideas cause regional change over time.

3.5.03b Identify factors that cause development and change communities.

4th grade:

4.5.12a Identify the impact of railroads on life in Tennessee including changes to cities and major industries.

4.5.12b Identify the impact of various issues and events on life in Tennessee such as urbanization.

Overview:

Glen Leven is an advantageous environment to convey to students the concept of change over time. The landscape and structures at Glen Leven are products of historically significant changes that relate to national and local trends. A guided tour through the historic home and landscape will allow students to see for themselves the impact of change over time. Students will be encouraged to think about the railroads, medicinal advancements, mechanization, electricity, etc. as agents of change. This encourages them to think historically about life in the past and understand that preserving certain things help us remember and enable us to study what changed and why.



Late 19th century carriage house at Glen Leven Farm, later converted to accommodate automobiles.

Goals:

- Understand that things and places change over time.
- Understand changes to natural and man-made features are largely products of human behavior.
- Realize things were not always as they appear now and, in the future, will not remain as they appear now.
- Understand why Glen Leven exists.
- Understand the meaning of past, present, and future.



Investigative Questions:

What causes change?

Why do people want to change things?

Activity:

Before the guided tour, students will be asked what “long ago” means. Glen Leven staff will then explain that many years before any of us were born, people lived differently, even though they had the same needs as we do today. The way we do things has *changed*, therefore our physical environment has changed, too. The changes that will be discussed are:

- Toys – old toys will be on-site for children to observe and compare to what they play with now.
- Food preparation – Glen Leven staff will address the reason for the kitchen being at the back of the house, why the first kitchen was detached from the house (fire hazard), the purpose of a smokehouse (extant structure on the landscape) (meat cooking and storage), the purposes of springhouses and cellars (keeping perishable items cool), etc.
- House features – fireplaces (before electricity, furniture arrangement depended on where the light and heat source was), why are there almost zero closets in this house, bathrooms were later additions, etc. Highlight that funerals were normally held in houses’ parlors.
- Students will be directed to observe and note the differences that they see between the north and south parlors, the story for the mismatch will be told which entails historical understanding of disease and how medicine has changed over time.
- The house’s use as a Civil War field hospital will be used to demonstrate how wounded soldiers were cared for, this is also why the floors in the south parlor are different....to cover the bloodstains.



- Transportation – How did people get where they wanted to go before cars?....using the carriage house as an example. It was far away from the house because it originated as the carriage house, but was then changed to accommodate cars instead of horses. Emphasis will also be drawn to the transformative power of the railroads and the railroad's significance to Glen Leven.
- Communication will also be touched upon including one of the Thompson's experience as an express rider during the Revolutionary War, the bell at the back of the house, how people communicated before telephones, etc.
- Farming as a way to survive. Convey to students the centrality of farming to survival long ago. In some cases, dairy, meat and produce were all obtained from farming one's land.
- Trash middens – What did people do with their trash before there were dumpsters and landfills? We have artifacts found on the property at Glen Leven that we believe were some of the contents of a trash midden.
- Pictures of the landscape around the house will also be on hand for children to compare the present surroundings with.

Throughout the tour, students will be asked to compare what they are learning about from the past with what they experience in the present. Ex: how we deal with sickness today, how children entertain themselves, etc.

Assessment:

Possible post-teach:

CC.W.3.2 and CC.W.4.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

- Have students write about what his/her day might have been like one hundred years ago at Glen Leven? How does that compare with their lives today?
- What might have been better about living back then?