

Background History for Discovering Nature Program:

Boone Hall Plantation In 1681, Major John Boone was granted 470 acres of land as a dowry from Theophilus Patey who had received the land from the Lord Proprietors. He then expanded this land from 1681 to 1711 when he died. Boone Hall Plantation was a substantial piece of property in the Lowcountry of Carolina. From 1817 until 1935 the Horlbeck family owned the plantation. Henry and John Horlbeck were in the brick business. They expanded the plantation's brickyard and crop land to 1700 acres, increasing the slave numbers to supply workers for the plantation.

Agricultural Crops Three main cash crops were planted on this plantation between 1681 and the early 1900s. Indigo, cotton and pecan trees supplied the plantation with all of the wealth it could afford. Boone Hall Plantation did grow rice but only a small crop mainly for the consumption of its inhabitants. Today Boone Hall Plantation is one of the only working plantations left in South Carolina. Now the staple crops of the plantation are strawberries, tomatoes, peppers, and pumpkins although; grapes, blueberries, eggplant, zucchini, squash and asparagus are also grown here.

Wampancheone Creek This creek was also known as Bonne Hall Creek. By using the tides, the Boone's and many others could travel from their plantations to Charleston. Adjacent to the brick slave cabins, this creek provided fish and other seafood to supplement a slave's diet. One of the many owners of Boone Hall Plantation, Thomas and Alexandra Stone produced electricity for the plantation house by using the water from the creek. These tidal creeks served a much higher purpose, however, in the diversity of the plant and animal life that live(d) there.

Weather Weather affects many things in our lives, but here at Boone Hall, farming relies on the weather just as we do. The weather station at the Butterfly Café allows our farmer to monitor the temperature, barometric pressure, rain height, dew point and other types of data in order to make sure that the crops are going to grow.

Wildlife There is a rich diversity of wildlife here on the plantation grounds from alligators, turtles and frogs found in the fresh water pond to the many birds that migrate through this area on their way north to the plants that they all live in and on. Experience the best that South Carolina has to offer.

Program Goals:

Students will be able to:

- ▶ View the different parts of the plantation to understand the habitat that is provided here
- ▶ Identify the plants and animals that live on Boone Hall Plantation
- ▶ Interpret the effort involved in continuing a large farm operation
- ▶ List the different uses for the salt marsh

► Explain how people have affected the Wampancheone Creek and what the consequence of that interaction might be

2008 South Carolina Academic Standards Fulfilled:

Science: K-1.1, K-2.1, K-2.2, K-2.4, K-2.5, K-4.3
1-1.2, 1-2.1, 1-2.2, 1-2.3, 1-2.4
2-1.2, 2-1.3, 2-2.1, 2-2.2, 2-2.4, 2-3.2

Vocabulary:

Character Education Vocabulary

Responsibility - moral, legal, or mental accountability

Respect - the quality or state of being held in high or special regard

Compassion – a feeling of being sorry for others and wanting to help them

Citizenship - the quality of an individual's response to membership in a community

Program Specific Vocabulary (some words may have to be explained a bit so they are at the level of K-2nd grade)

Root - the part of a plant that grows into the ground. It holds the plant in place and takes water and food from the soil.

Stem - the main part of a plant or tree that grows up from the ground and bears leaves and flowers

Leaves - any of the flat, green parts growing from the stem of a plant or tree

Fruit - the part of a flowering plant that contains the seeds

Flower - the part of a plant that bears the seeds and usually has brightly colored petals; a blossom or bloom

Pollen - the yellow powder that is found on the stamens of flowers

Seed - the part of a flowering plant that is able to grow into a new plant

Soil - the top layer of the earth, in which plants grow

Salt Marsh Nursery - a salty lowland that is wet and soft, great for animal young

Pollution - the process of letting out wastes or poisonous substances into the air, water, or land

Waterway - a river, canal, or other body of water serving as a route or way of travel or transport

Ecosystem - all the animals, plants, and bacteria that make up a particular community living in a certain environment. The parts of an ecosystem depend on one another to live

Mammal (Dolphin) - a warm-blooded animal that has a backbone. A female mammal has glands that produce milk for feedings its young.

Erosion - the process of being worn away slowly, especially by wind or water

Brackish water - a mixture of fresh and salt water

Reptile - a coldblooded animal that has a backbone and scales, and crawls on its belly or creeps on short legs

Amphibian - coldblooded animal that lives both on land and in the water

Cash crop - a crop which is grown for money

Plantation - a large scale farm

Pre and Post Visit Activities:

Pre-Site Activities:

1. Review the vocabulary and draw a picture that represents each word.
2. Go to the website, www.boonehallplantation.com, to learn about Boone Hall Plantation and its resources.
3. Read books and newspaper or magazine articles relating to nature or the environment.
4. Look at maps or pictures of what your community looked like in the year 1800 and today. Compare the differences.
5. Make up a song about the life of an animal native to South Carolina. (This can be group work)

Post-Site Activities:

1. Debate the issue of the green space vs. housing developments, farmland, or commercial/industrial space.
2. Draw a picture of what you remember from being at Boone Hall.
3. Reflect on how animals and humans have affected our environment (Use the maps from pre-site #4 to help the students if needed).
4. Make a poster listing all of the foods that you eat that come from a farm.
5. Class Project: Complete four of the following:
 - Make up a new historic site or park that you have preserved for public touring. This could be modeled after a really cool old building, farm or green space in your town. Some questions to answer are:
What is it called?

Where is it located?

What important features does it have (buildings, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, mountain, etc.)?

What animals live there (herbivores, carnivores, omnivores)?

- Design a brochure promoting your new site.
- Sketch a picture of what this place looks like.
- Make a video commercial promoting visitation to the site.
- Write a newspaper article as a reporter doing a story on the opening festivities of this new site or write an article on how you think preserving special places benefit our country and the people who live here.
- Create a radio jingle to draw visitors to the activities your site provides.
- Make up a list of what kinds of jobs you need people to do at your site.

(Make a teacher/student-made rubric to grade projects. A helpful websites are:

<http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.shtml> or http://www.technology.com/web_tools/rubrics/general)

Want to Learn More?

Peterson First Guides and Peterson Field Guides for animals and plants

Project Learning Tree Guide

Project WET and WILD

DK Eye Wonder Books

Images of America: Boone Hall Plantation by Michelle Adams

From Seed to Plant by Gail Gibbons

Farming by Gail Gibbons

Environmental Issues by Addison Wesley

Environmental Science: Earth as a Living Planet by Daniel B. Botkin, Edward A. Keller

Harvest for Hope: A Guide to Mindful Eating by Jane Goodall

From Asparagus to Zucchini: A Guide to Cooking Farm-Fresh Seasonal Produce by Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition

Successful Small-Scale Farming: An Organic Approach by Karl Schwenke