

## **POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES**

The following activities are suggested as culminating activities once you have visited the Sam Houston Museum. We hope these activities will help your students retain and utilize the information they learned while visiting the museum. You may choose to use one or more of the following activities to review Sam Houston or 19th century living. You may also consider using any of the pre-visit activities.

- Discuss the provided post-visit questions. These questions will help your students analyze the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Review the concepts and vocabulary related to Sam and the Museum. Your students could provide examples from their visit to show their comprehension of these ideas.
- Create a fact mobile on Sam Houston. On four small index cards or pieces of paper, have students write one fact about Sam. On the reverse side students can illustrate the fact. Hang from a clothes hanger, dowel, or stick.
- Create a diorama of one of Sam Houston's homes. Include all time period appropriate structures, people in traditional dress, and food sources.
- Review your KWL chart on Sam Houston and the 19th century. Add to the chart, what the students have learned from the visit to the Museum.
- Write journal entries pretending to be Sam Houston or one of his children. Describe a day in the life of a 19th century adult or child.
- Dramatize a day in the life of Sam Houston. Students can take on rolls as Sam, Margaret, or one of the children.
- Determine other important events and people in Sam Houston's lifetime. Consider both Texas and United States. Discuss how these people and events may have influenced Sam Houston.
- Create a timeline of important events of Sam Houston's life. Illustrate important people and events. Students can create their own personal timeline as well.
- Compare and contrast Sam Houston to today's Texas Senators and Governor. Determine how Sam Houston is similar and/or different from these people.
- Hold a debate over political issues in 19th century. Some topics for debate could include any of the following:
  - Santa Anna vs. Sam Houston regarding the status of Mexico in Texas
  - the North vs. the South regarding secession/civil war
  - Native Americans vs. the United States government regarding native

lands and the expansion of slavery.

- Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast 19th century life to life today. Consider any of the following topics: food, clothing, social customs, furniture, architecture, home life.
- The Compromise of 1850 was an important political debate while Sam was serving in the United States Senate. Find and cut out newspaper and magazine articles illustrating national and local issues worthy of debate today.
- Compare and contrast a 19th century home to a 20th century home. Predict what homes will be like in 150 years. What will be obsolete? What will be treasured?
- Research and read primary documents of Texas history. These could include the Declaration of Independence, letters of defenders of the Alamo, speeches of famous men and women, or newspapers of the time period.
- Compare the Constitution of the Republic of Texas to its model, the United States Constitution. How are the two documents alike? How are they different?
- Find five different perspectives on Sam Houston. Look at documents from Sam Houston's family, political enemies, Indians, military personnel, and contemporary historians. Determine how and why perspectives differ.
- Write journal entries from the point of view of Margaret, Eliza Houston, Joshua Houston, one of the children, a political enemy or supporter of Sam Houston. Describe a day in the life of a 19th century adult or child.
- Write a persuasive letter to Sam Houston regarding his stance on Texas's secession, or another controversial issue of the 19th century. Try to convince Sam Houston to change his mind.
- Have your class create a museum for this year. Determine what items of today should be placed in a museum. Write descriptions of the "artifacts" and why each was chosen to be in the museum.
- Review the State Symbols and/or Six Flags of Texas.
- Complete any of the included activity pages.