

Level: Grades 3-5

Standards:

W3 CCR Anchor Standard: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences

W4 CCR Anchor Standard Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience

W5 CCR Anchor Standard Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

W6 CCR Anchor Standard Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Task: Write a letter to Nancy Davis from a member of the Ridgely family or to a member of the Ridgely family from Nancy Davis. The letter must include details about the life of both servants and the Ridgelys to show how different their daily life was.

Before Visiting the Site (Classroom)

Students should have an understanding of slavery in America and how the country changed after the Civil War. The focus of this task is on a former slave Nancy Davis. She is the only slave/servant to have been buried in the Ridgely family cemetery.

Resources:

- Virtual Tour:
<https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/hampton/index.html>
- Slavery at Hampton:
<https://home.nps.gov/hamp/learn/historyculture/slavery-at-hampton.htm>
- Image of Nancy Davis 1863:
https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/hampton/exb/people/Slaves_Servants_Employees/HAMP6301_NancyDavis_ElizaRidgely.html
- Image of Nancy Davis 1895:
https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/hampton/exb/people/Slaves_Servants_Employees/HAMP20312_NancyDavis_Margaretta_JulianaRidgelyYeaton.html



As a class, prior to visiting, develop a list of questions or topics that the students will need to have information about to complete the writing task

During the Visit to Hampton National Historic Site

Suggested Activities:

- Have students take pictures or make sketches of the relevant areas to Nancy Davis; the child's bedroom and slave quarters. (drawing room is also set in the same time period as the bedroom)
- Refer back to class list of questions to ensure they were all answered

Follow Up After the Visit (Classroom)

Share the sketches and observations that the students made during the visit.

Review the answers to the class questions

Students may need to research information to clarify the content learned from the tour. (For instance looking at pictures of common games played by children in 1863)

After the students have written, revised, and edited their letters, create a student sharing or showcase so that each student in the class is able to share their letters with each other. Highlight the similarities and differences in what the students found interesting and important about life at The Hampton Mansion. Include technology in presentation methods as appropriate.