

TREDYFFRIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST
Inclusive Historical Interpretation
Third Grade Local History Program | 2026-27

For more than a decade, our Third Grade Local History Program has provided students with an engaging, hands-on opportunity to experience the history of the Tredyffrin/Valley Forge area where it happened. Through four interactive learning stations, students explore historic architecture, Revolutionary-era history, agriculture and everyday life, music and dance, and traditional handwork.

A Broader View of Local History

Our historical interpretation recognizes that the story of a community extends beyond prominent individuals and historic buildings. Students consider the experiences and contributions of many people who shaped early Pennsylvania, including Indigenous people, European immigrants, free and enslaved African Americans, women and children, farmers, craftspeople, laborers, soldiers and community members whose individual stories may not always have been preserved in the historical record.

Rather than presenting history as a single story, our interpreters encourage students to ask questions, examine evidence and consider multiple perspectives.

Four Interactive Learning Experiences

General Duportail & the Historic House - Students discover the French military engineer's connection to the American Revolution and Valley Forge, the international influences that shaped the new nation, and the lives of people who made historic households and communities function.

Federal Barn & Jones Log Barn Living History Center - Historic barns introduce students to early Pennsylvania agriculture, architecture, immigration, cultural traditions and the labor required to sustain a farm and community.

Colonial Dance & Music - Through participation in period dance and music, students explore how cultural traditions travel with people, evolve over time and become part of a community's shared heritage.

Quilts & Hands-On Arts Project - Students explore textiles, sewing, reuse and handwork in everyday life. Each child creates an individual quilt square; the class combines the squares into a collaborative paper quilt, demonstrating how individual contributions become part of a larger community.

History Through Inquiry

Throughout the program, students are encouraged to ask:

- Who lived here? Who worked here?
- Whose stories were recorded - and whose may be harder to find?

- How did people from different places and backgrounds contribute to Pennsylvania?
- How can buildings, objects and traditions help us understand people of the past?

Our goal is to provide students with a historically accurate, age-appropriate and engaging experience that demonstrates a fundamental principle: *Local history is the story of many people.*

For questions or further information, please contact:

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Since 2001, Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust has been a 501(c)(3) historic preservation organization.