

Thomas County Museum of History

Grade Four Field Trip Topics

SS4H1 The student will describe how early Native American cultures developed in North America.

b. Describe how the American Indians used their environment to obtain food, clothing and shelter.

Local History Links: **Stone tools in Thomas County indicate trade with people who lived near that natural resource. Thomas County does not have a known source of flint, a stone used to make projectile points. The Flint River and Chattahoochee Rivers both have flint along their course.*

**Naturally occurring clay in Thomas County is found in pottery made locally.*

**Other natural resources in this area that might have been used by Native Americans include: animals and plants for food and clothing; plants and clay for housing; plant fiber for string, clothing, housing; reeds for blow-guns, soil for growing corn, beans and squash; water.*

SS4H6 The student will explain westward expansion of America between 1801 and 1861.

a. Describe territorial expansion with emphasis on the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the acquisitions of Texas (the Alamo and independence), Oregon (Oregon Trail), and California (Gold Rush and the development of mining towns.)

b. Describe the impact of the steamboat, the steam locomotive, and the telegraph on life in America.

Local History Links: *Land Lottery of 1820 was intended to encourage settlement of South Georgia. Settlement in this area led to the creation of Thomas County. Settlement was hampered by lack of good transportation: no navigable river, no railroad, no good roads. The railroad did not come to Thomasville until 1861.*

SS4G1 The student will be able to locate important physical and man-made features in the United States.

a. Locate major physical features of the United States. Include the Atlantic Coastal Plain, Great Plains, Continental Divide, the Great Basin, Death Valley, Gulf of Mexico, St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes.

Local History Links: **The Coastal Plain, the Tallahassee Red Hills, Gulf of Mexico and Ochlocknee River are the major physical features of this area. The soil in the Red Hills differs from surrounding soils which determined what crops could grow in the area.*

**Discuss the attributes of the Ochlocknee River (meandering course, wide flood plain, tendency to flood in heavy rains, tendency to run nearly dry in dry weather).*

SS4G2 The student will describe how physical systems affect human systems.

a. Explain why each of the Native American groups (SS4H2a) occupied the areas they did with emphasis on why some developed permanent villages and others did not.

e. Describe physical barriers that hindered and physical gateways that benefited territorial expansion from 1801 to 1861 (SS4H6a).

Local History Links: *History Mystery – why were there no permanent settlements of Native Americans in this area? There are permanent settlements in the Leon County, Florida area and north of here near Blakely (Ocmulgee).*

**Explain the difficulties in transportation in this area to the settlers caused by the lack of a navigable river and distance from Savannah and good ports.*

**Explain how lack of a navigable river led to a desire for a railroad and discuss the arrival of the railroad in 1861.*

SS4E1 The student will use the basic economic concepts of trade, opportunity cost, specialization, voluntary exchange, productivity, and price incentives to illustrate historical events.

a. Describe opportunity costs and their relationship to decision-making across time (such as decisions to send expeditions to the New World).

f. Give examples of technological advancements and their impact on business productivity during the development of the United States (such as the steamboat, the steam locomotive, and the telegraph).

Local History Links: *a. Discuss why the land lottery winners did not all move to the area. Discuss why some people bought the land from the lottery winners and moved here. In the 1820s, it was thought that the Red Hills soil would grow cotton, making it attractive to cotton planters.*

f. Steamboats made shipping of Thomas County cotton to England more economical. The steam locomotive would, in April 1865, link Thomasville to Savannah, making shipping goods to that port more economical.