

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Post-Visit Guide

Grade 4

Overview: The Ladies of Maplecroft

When the Starr family lived in Maplecroft, Clara managed a bustling household that included her six daughters, her mother, the daughters' governess, a cook, and other household servants. In this lesson, students will examine the differences and similarities in the lives of the ladies of Maplecroft.

Social Studies TEKS

(4) History. The student understands the political, economic, and social changes in Texas during the last half of the 19th century. The student is expected to:

(A) describe the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on Texas

(12) Economics. The student understands patterns of work and economic activities in Texas. The student is expected to:

(A) explain how people in different regions of Texas earn their living, past and present, through a subsistence economy and providing goods and services

(21) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. The student is expected to:

(A) differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as computer software; interviews; biographies; oral, print, and visual material; documents; and artifacts to acquire information about the United States and Texas;

(B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions

Materials

- Historical images for display/distribution
- Activity resources

Vocabulary

- **privilege:** a right or benefit given to some and not to others
- **Reconstruction:** a period after the Civil War (1865-1877) during which efforts were made to reunite the divided country and determine how freed slaves would be integrated into American society

Historical Context

Clara Starr suffered from Hodgkin's Lymphoma for two years. As Frank relayed in one of his letters, she had the best of nursing care and medical attention. As he said, "She had every comfort and convenience that affection and money could provide." None of the medical treatments worked for Clara. She was healed

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

eventually by a Christian Science healer from Boston. Later, the family established the first Christian Science church in Marshall.

Grandmother Clapp, a widow, had the wealth and mobility to move from her home in New Orleans to the Starr home in Marshall. She paid for her downstairs bedroom to be added onto Maplecroft, and she had her own private entrance into her quarters.

The **six Starr daughters** were raised by parents who valued education. At a time when there were few colleges admitting women in the United States, Frank ensured that his daughters were taught all the subjects that would prepare them for the scientific course at Wellesley. Even when girls were educated in the late 1800s, rarely were higher level math and science subjects involved. The Starr girls were afforded a progressive education, especially for young women living in Marshall. All six daughters married successfully, and four daughters and their husbands lived near Frank and Clara in Marshall.

In 1889, Mr. Starr offered to pay **governess** Emma Grace Stone \$45.00 per month plus room and board to teach his six daughters, including the oldest who were already in Wellesley. He also asked her to work through summer vacation, ensuring that his daughters had light lessons each morning. This is the text from his letter to Miss Stone describing her duties:

I have a room – a separate plain building in my yard, fitted up thoroughly for a school room, having desks, blackboard, maps, charts, &c. There is ample space “out of doors” – lawns and shaded grounds. I wish the [p. 582, letter p. 4] school hours to be from about 8:45 A.M. to 1 P.M. (we dine at 1 P.M.) and from 2 to 3:30 P.M. (with proper recesses), Monday to Friday inclusive.

Lucy Patterson was listed in the 1880 census as a **cook/household servant** at Maplecroft. Household servants began their day as early as 6 a.m. and worked until 10 p.m. every day of the week. In addition to food duties, a household cook would probably wash and mend laundry, take care of the children, and work in the garden. Mr. Starr’s letters indicate that he paid formerly enslaved people around \$1.00 a day for work done around Maplecroft.

Family servant Temperance (nicknamed Tempe) was an enslaved person who was in service for Dr. James H. Starr (Frank Starr’s father) at their home in Nacogdoches. When Frank and Clara moved to Marshall, they built a small house behind Maplecroft for Tempe. By this time, Tempe had received her freedom and chose to retire from service to the Starrs and stay in Nacogdoches with her family.

Activity: KWL Chart

10 minutes

Have students complete the Starr Family Home KWL chart and share their experiences, including any new questions they have after visiting the site.

407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

ELA Extension Activity: Writing the Past at Maplecroft

ELA TEKS

(16) Writing/Literary Texts. Students write literary texts to express their ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas. Students are expected to:

- (A) write imaginative stories that build the plot to a climax and contain details about the characters and setting

Display/distribute the **historical images** from Maplecroft. Allow students to select which image they'd like to use to write their fictional narrative. You may also encourage them to use the **photo analysis graphic organizer** before they start writing to help them notice details.

Have students imagine they are one of the people in the historic photos, or someone who would have lived in or visited the houses. Using the pictures and their visit at Maplecroft, have students write at least three journal entries from the point of view of the historical figure or an imagined character about what they experienced at the Starr family home in the early 19th century.

407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Activity Image: Maplecroft, Marshall, Texas



407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Activity Image: Governess Miss Nicholson with Ruth, Mary, Pammie, Hattie Starr



407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Activity Image: House for Temperance at Maplecroft



407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Activity Image: Grandmother Clapp's Bedroom



407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

STARR FAMILY HOME

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Marshall, Texas

Photo Analysis Graphic Organizer

Observation: Study the photograph closely. Write down what you notice.

Write the nouns (people, places, things) you see in the photo.	Write at least 1 adjective (describing word) for each noun.

Investigate: What questions do you have after studying this photograph? What might be possible answers?

Questions	Possible Answers

407 WEST TRAVIS ST.
MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670
P 903-935-3044 F 903-938-6039

visitstarrfamilyhome.com
#TXTimeTravel
storiedsites.com



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES