



“Do You Live Here?”

Historic Building Interpretation for Elementary School Students

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Gibbs Farm Historic Site – St. Paul, Minnesota



“What are we
going to do here?”

What is Gibbs Farm?

Program Goals & Themes

Storytelling & Setting the Scene

Hands-on Learning

Staff Training & Field Trip Logistics

“Are you Jane Gibbs?”

- St. Paul, Minnesota & Ramsey County Historical Society
- History of the Dakota of Cloud Man’s Village & Early Minnesota Farm Life (1830s-1900)





“He’s so handsome!”

- Overarching Theme/Story
- Introducing the story to students:
 - The Dakota of Cloud Man’s Village
 - Jane Gibbs & Her Family
- Each “Station” has a Story



“That doll is creepy!”

- Setting the Scene

- Farmhouse
- Objects
- Photos
- Costumes/Uniforms





“Can I eat it?”

- Hands-on Learning
 - Craft activities
 - “Acting it out”
 - “Touch & See”
 - Education Collections
- Physical movement





“How do you know all this stuff?”

- Staff Training
 - Staff or Volunteers?
 - Iceberg of Information
 - Timing/“Well-Oiled Machine”



“Can I climb up there?”

Herd your kids and get your ducks in a row!



“Are we going in that house?”

- “Station” Field Trip Model
 - Classes or Smaller Groups?
 - Rigidity = Flexibility
 - How are the staff leading the tour?
 - Staying in one place.
 - Bringing the group through entire tour.







“I have something to say!”



Questions?