

DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Dear Educator:

We have developed a new educational program that fits into the New York State curriculum for 4th Grade Social Studies, focusing on New World Dutch culture and architecture. We are looking for teachers who would be interested in piloting this program.

The educator's packet includes a story of the life of children on a Dutch farm in the Mohawk Valley circa 1750, data-based questions, a glossary of terms, a map and illustrations, a number of activities, as well as a sample lesson plan and recommended reading and websites. This module (labeled "A" in the Table of Contents and on file names) centers around the Mabee Farm Historic Site, which may be visited by school groups and the general public.

In addition to this, another module presents historical information on early Dutch colonization and early Dutch American architecture in three separate texts. These provide background information for teachers, but are written and illustrated so that they may be enjoyed by students. They also come with data-based questions, glossary, and activities. In the Table of Contents, this module is labeled "B." One further text, labeled "C," explores the ecological problems of colonization.

The modules are designed to address two areas of the New York State Standards for Learning Social Studies: Standard One and Three. Standard One stipulates that the students learn about the history of the United States and of New York State by exploring why it was settled, who were the early settlers, what were the cultures and cultural differences among the settlers, and how they impacted American democracy; it also encourages the use of primary sources, of which our surviving farms and structures are prime examples. Standard Three is for the learning of geography and global interdependence.

If you would like to assist us in our mission by implementing this program into your curricula, please contact us at info@dutchbarns.org, or at the address below. You may also consult our website, www.dutchbarnsurvey.org. Through the assistance of educators such as yourself, we seek to create a program that will help foster interest in our history and historic structures in the future generations.

Sincerely,

Steve Jones

Dutch Farm Survey Coordinator

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