

Williamsburg Project Kit

Congratulations! You're going to Williamsburg VA! Use these project ideas to enrich your educational experience. Read through them before you go to make sure you understand the terms and concepts, and to help you determine if you want to expand upon any of them. **You'll find fun facts and printable worksheets at the end of this packet.**

a- elementary level activity b- middle school level activity c- high school level activity

Language Arts

Williamsburg's rich history is full of so many interesting stories! Now is your chance to write your own. Using the places you'll go and the people you'll learn about, write a fictional story centered around Williamsburg. The setting must be somewhere in Williamsburg, but it can be set during any time period and include any characters. Make sure to include all of the proper elements of a story (setting, character, introduction, plot, conflict, resolution).

- a. Draw a storybook or write a short story with illustrations inspired by Williamsburg.
- b. Write a short story inspired by your visit, including a main character and the main elements of a story (setting, plot, conflict, and resolution).
- c. Choose between writing a fictional first-person narrative or a screenplay inspired by your visit. Be sure to include all the proper elements of a good story, as well as character development.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawing, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Applied Math

Everywhere you look there is visual math. Notice the accuracy of the engineering, and all the application of math all around you, in the architecture, street layout, etc. Everyone who was part of building the city and its buildings had to be proficient in math. Find applications for mathematical thinking and calculation all around you.

- a. Go on a shape hunt. Draw and label the shapes you find. Also, draw a representation of at least two patterns you find.
- b. Look closer at one aspect of the city. It can be anything: building design, general layout, a public park, etc. Detail the math it would take to create it. Try to identify at least one part of your chosen area which would require math or skill beyond your current understanding. What could you do to learn that skill?
- c. Math is everywhere. Imagine you are one of the people working in the city on a building project. Describe your project and what you would need to know and do to complete it. Choose at least one application of math that you see, estimate measurements, and use calculations to show how the worker designed and created that element.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, calculator or smartphone (optional)

Submission: Your calculations, estimations, and conclusions, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Science

Visit **Center for Conservation Biology** (which originated at the William and Mary College) to learn more about animals native to the area. Look up and you may spy a bald eagle soaring overhead that is very likely being tracked with GPS transmitters by the **CCB**. Every animal has a unique life history. A “life history” is the story of an animal’s life from birth (or fertilization) to adulthood (and death). How many different ways can an animal begin its life? Are some animals more independent as babies than others? Why do you think this is? What about their lives affect how vulnerable they are when they are born? What kinds of animals raise their babies, and what kinds don’t? How does this affect how many babies survive to adulthood?

- a. Choose an animal to think about these questions for. Draw or write about your ideas.
- b. Discuss and diagram the unique life history of one of the animals you see. Write a paragraph about your findings.
- c. Discuss the life history of one of the animals you see. Write a short essay on your findings. Then, explore animal keeping. What kinds of things does an aquarium or zoo need to keep in mind about each animal's' life history when it is designing its living space and their plan for taking care of it?

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your drawings, diagrams, maps, or designs, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Social Studies

Washington DC is a popular tourist location. Throughout your trip pay attention to the people around you. Can you tell if any of them are foreign travellers? Do some come from other states? How can you tell? What other languages can you hear? How far did they travel? Do they look like they're enjoying their vacation? How large are their groups that they are travelling in? How well do you feel Washington DC is representing America?

- a. Pay attention to the people around you. Find at least one group of tourists and see if you can find out where they are from. Be discreet and polite while you look and listen for clues. Write down the clues you found. If you are brave, ask them where they are from and tell them you hope they are having fun on their trip!
- b. See how many languages or accents you can identify. Where are those languages or accents spoken? What can you guess about the travellers based on their language or accent? How far did they have to travel to come to Washington DC? Why do you think they picked this city? Is there anything like this in their home country? Write about your ideas.
- c. What makes Washington DC so popular for tourists? Do a little research about the area, including major historical events. Write a short essay about Washington DC including a timeline and why it is such an interesting city.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, smartphone (optional)

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawings, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Social Studies

There are a lot of people in Williamsburg! The city of Williamsburg was a “planned city”. The main street through the city (Duke of Gloucester Street) was widened and cleared. Buildings and streets were built according to a plan including the capital building, courthouse, the magazine, the church and the market square. Choose one of the locations (like a memorial or museum) you visit to analyze how they handle the crowds? What sorts of tools does it employ to manage people and prevent unsafe crowding conditions? What sorts of tools does the location use to limit the number of people who attend in a day? What types of attractions does the location utilize to help with crowd control? How do people respond to these tools? Do they notice? How many people do they need to employ to help manage their guests? What effect does the layout have on the movement of people? Can you see these same principles in use in the planning of smaller social events or amusement parks you have ever attended?

- a. Notice how many people are at your location. Discuss some of the things they do to control crowding and help make each guest’s experience pleasurable. Write down the techniques you see and how often you see them being used.
- b. Discuss crowd control pre-entrance, during guest visit, and around specific attractions. Analyze the layout of the location and if/why certain features were designed with the purpose of managing crowds.
- c. Discuss crowd control and analyze the layout of the location. Discuss the things you’ve seen in light of larger social environments you’ve been in. How universal are these techniques? What are your ideas for improving guest experience at your location?

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, park map

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawings, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Culminating Project:

Create a timeline for Williamsburg. Using all of the information you've learned throughout your visit, create a timeline that covers Williamsburg's beginnings through today. Make sure to include all relevant dates, events, and people and where you learned about them. Draw pictures to illustrate your timeline.

- a. Include at least 8 events or people.
- b. Include at least 15 events or people.
- c. Include at least 25 events or people.

Tip: Create a blank timeline for your trip that you can carry with you and jot down notes as you go. You can find blank printable timelines on the internet, or create your own. Then turn your note-taking timeline into a finished project as a review of your trip once you've returned home.

FUN FACTS

- The city of Williamsburg served as the capital of the Virginia Colony for most of the 1700s. It was an important city during the growing years of Colonial America.
- In 1638, the small town of Middle Plantation was founded a few miles away from Jamestown. The location was better than Jamestown in that the ground was higher and it wouldn't become swampy during the summer. In 1676, the city served as the temporary capital of Virginia after much of Jamestown was burned during Bacon's Rebellion.
- In 1693, the College of William and Mary was formed at Middle Plantation. It was named after the English monarchs at the time; King William III and Queen Mary II. Many famous patriots and leaders attended William and Mary including Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, John Marshall, and Peyton Randolph (first President of the Continental Congress).
- When the statehouse in Jamestown burned down again in 1698, the House of Burgesses once again moved to Middle Plantation. They enjoyed the higher ground, better climate, and the facilities of the school nearby. In 1699, they decided to move the capital of Virginia permanently from Jamestown to Middle Plantation. They also changed the name to Williamsburg in honor of William III.
- In 1775, tensions were mounting between the American colonists and Britain. The Revolutionary War was about to begin. One of the early conflicts in the war was the Gunpowder Incident in Williamsburg. It started when the governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore, seized the gunpowder from the magazine at Williamsburg and had it moved to a British ship. Led by Patrick Henry, a small militia force marched to the governor's house demanding the return of the gunpowder. Although the incident was settled peacefully, Dunmore eventually fled Virginia and lost control of the colony.
- William and Mary is the second oldest university in the United States after Harvard, which was formed in 1636.
- The first canal built in the United States was built in Williamsburg in 1771.
- The first hospital for mental illness in the United States was established in Williamsburg in 1773.
- The 1983 G7 Summit was held in Williamsburg. It included such leaders as [Ronald Reagan](#), [Margaret Thatcher](#), and Francois Mitterrand.
- The oldest college building in the United States is the Wren building at William and Mary.

Williamsburg

1. Draw a picture of your favorite thing you saw.
2. Describe 4 different ways that you saw people move.
3. What is your favorite thing you learned about Williamsburg's history?

4. Describe or draw your favorite location you visited.

5. Fill the box with as many historical people who lived in Williamsburg as you can.

6. What is one event that happened in Williamsburg?

7. Can you find these things on your visit?

- Something over 200 years old _____
- Something brand new _____
- Something important to the founding of America _____
- Something important to locals _____
- Something that floats _____
- Something that lives in the water _____
- Something that flies _____
- Something made of wood _____
- Something made of brick _____
- Something with a name that's hard to pronounce _____
- Something with a name with less than 5 letters _____
- Something owned by a famous person _____
- Something you wish you could take home with you _____
- Something you thought was cool _____

BONUS:

Williamsburg is an incredibly fascinating place with a rich history. How has this history shaped the modern day city? How has it affected its layout, its architecture, and its culture?