

CONNER HOUSE: GATHERING EVIDENCE

Educators' Page

Part of a historian's job is to make claims about the past and then provide evidence to support those claims. With this activity, students can practice gathering evidence as they visit the Conner House.

Directions:

- **Select one claim from the list below to investigate as students visit the Conner House.**
- **As they explore the house, examine the exhibits, and talk to the interpreters they will decide if they agree or disagree with the claim and gather evidence that supports their point of view.**
- **Students may write notes about what they see or hear and take photographs or videos.**
- **If students disagree with the claim, they should rewrite it so that it reflects their point of view.**
- **Once they return to the classroom, students should write an essay or create a short presentation that begins with the historical claim and provides evidence gathered from the Conner House that supports it.**
- **They may also do research from additional sources to support their claim.**

OBJECTIVE:

After completing this activity, students will be able to

- **Support a historical claim by providing reasoned evidence.**

ACADEMIC STANDARDS:

English/Language Arts:

4.W.3.2 Write informative compositions on a variety of topics.

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Social Studies:

4.1.5 Identify and explain the causes of the removal of Native American Indian groups in the state and their resettlement in the 1830s.

- 4.1.6 Explain how key individuals and events influence the early growth and development of Indiana,
- 8.1.17 Explain relationships and conflict between settlers and Native Americans on the frontier.
- 8.1.18 Describe the causes, courses, challenges, compromises, and consequences associated with westward expansion, including the concept of Manifest Destiny.

Literacy in History/Social Studies:

- 6-8.LH.5.1 Write arguments focused on discipline specific content.
- 6-8.LH.7.3 Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

HISTORICAL CLAIMS ABOUT WILLIAM CONNER AND EARLY INDIANA:

1. William Conner was a hero.
2. Early settlers in Indiana had to be courageous in order to be successful.
3. The Lenape Indians were better off leaving Indiana than they would have been if they had stayed and lived among the new settlers.
4. William Conner built his brick house in a good location.
5. Early settlers were wrong to cut down so much of Indiana's forest.
6. William Conner was a good businessman.
7. William Conner's actions contributed to the Lenape being removed from Indiana.
8. William Conner was important to the settling of central Indiana.
9. Life was simpler in the 1820s than it is today.

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