History Hunt

First and Second Grade
How Does Your Garden Grow?
The de Léon house is a small, working-class home. With just two rooms, Mrs. de Léon has to be very careful with the way she uses her space. What modern conveniences does she have? What is she missing?

What jobs brought the de Léon family to North Texas? (Hint: Find the building that is the same color as the house.)

In the kitchen, what do you see that reflects the de Léon family’s Hispanic heritage?

What is growing in the garden outside?

How do the gardens tell you about the family that lives in this house?

Why might a family in town have a garden and chickens? How does Mrs. de Léon use her backyard? What special plant is growing in the backyard?
When Millermore was almost torn down in the 1960s, a group of women saved it and created the museum you’re visiting today. As you explore, think about why they fought to save this home.

What year was Millermore built? Why do you think it took so long for it to be finished?

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Which room feels more comfortable in Millermore: the formal parlor or the family parlor? Why? List 3 reasons for your choice.

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The Miller’s had a scent garden behind their home. How is this different than the other gardens in the Village?

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What types of plants are growing in the scent garden?

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What other plant uses do you see around Millermore?

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• Nip and Tuck, our Mammoth Jack Donkeys, may be providing carriage rides during your visit. Rides are 25¢ per rider and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
• Help us keep the Village tidy. Please, no food, drinks, or trash inside our buildings.
• Admission stickers need to leave the Village with students—please do not stick them on signs or barriers.
• Some of our buildings are closed to the public for various reasons. They are clearly marked.
• Please do not allow students to tour buildings unattended.
• Though we certainly look like a park, please do not allow students to run through the grounds.
• Please help us preserve our buildings by not allowing touching artifacts behind barriers or hanging or jumping on our buildings.

17. Saloon
18. Law Office (educational programming)
19. Browder Springs Hall (event space)
20. Citizen’s Bank & Dentist’s Office
21. Van Cleave Bandstand
22. Pavilion (event space)
In this house, the kitchen is in a separate building. Why do you think this is?

There are a lot of chores on a farm! Can you think of three things that would have to be done every day?

What kind of crops would you have grown if you lived at the Farmstead?

What animals live at the farm? (Make sure you look around!) How would each have been useful to pioneers?

What kinds of crops are growing in the Farmstead gardens?

The Farmstead has a wide center porch called a Dog Trot. Why do you think they chose to build their house this way?

Though not as large as Millermore, the Farmstead was considered a very nice home for a farming family. Imagine what your life might have been like if you lived here.
This house was built by a Dallas doctor as rental property and was part of a working class African American neighborhood. The house style was probably introduced into this country in the early 19th century by free blacks from Haiti. Though you may have heard that shotgun houses get their name because one can fire a shotgun through the front door and the bullet goes out the back door, take a look inside. You’ll notice the two doors aren’t lined up. Most likely, we corrupted the original African word “togun” into “shotgun.”

Find the large scissors hanging in a window of the Shotgun House. They are a clue to Mrs. Freeman’s occupation. What do you think it is? Can you find another clue inside the house?

Can you find a picture of a famous president inside the Shotgun House? Who is it? Why do you think he’s here?

What foods do you see in the garden out back? How were these foods used?

What tools do you see in the kitchen for using the food out of the garden?
Livestock were a very important part of a frontier community. Horses, donkeys and oxen were able to plow fields and provide transportation for people and things.

What are the names of the donkeys?

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____________________________________________________

What do the donkeys like to eat?

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____________________________________________________

What might be in the donkeys’ wagon?

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Is there anything else in the Village that also hauls large items? How might this have changed the donkeys’ lives?

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Which famous president bred the first Mammoth Jack donkeys?

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Who else in the Village might have work for the donkeys to do?

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Donkeys can make funny noises. Can you sound like a donkey?