

Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine

Field Trip Guide

Engage with the past to understand the present.



Discover the unique ways humans interact with nature.



Explore America's deep history, 75 feet below ground!



Department of Economic and
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

Connecticut



Overview

As a National Historic Landmark, Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine is recognized as the first chartered copper mine (1705-1750) and first state prison (1773-1827) in the nation. New-Gate's deep and rich history highlights themes of industry, justice, and oppression. This tangible



and unique site encourages questions and discovery of all ages. The landscape that has been shaped by human hands over the course of 300 years has taken on a life of its own and pushes the limits of biological, ecological, and geological study. The site begs for the past to be told, the present to be engaged, and the future to be planned.

How to Book a Trip

- 1) Choose a program for your group.
- 2) [Fill out the Group Visit Form here.](#)
- 3) Send the form to Site Manager, Morgan Bengel at Morgan.Bengel@ct.gov

Field Trip Details

- **Length:** 3 half hour activities including a tour of the mine.
- **Cost:** \$7 per student and chaperone. Teachers are free.
- **Capacity:** 60 students, divided into groups of 10.
- **Standards:** All activities and tours were developed using the Connecticut Social Studies Frameworks, and Connecticut Next Generation Science Standards.

Programs Offered

Program: Daily Life at New-Gate

Activities: Prison Yard Tour, Mining Game, Mine Tour

Recommended Grades: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th

Subject: Social Studies

Core Standards:

HIST 1.1; HIST 2.2; HIST 3.2; GEO 3.5; GEO 4.5; ECO 1.3; ECO 2.3; GEO 3.8, GEO 4.7; CIV 1.2; HIST 3.4; HIST 4.1

Guiding Questions:

- 1) What was life like at Old New-Gate as a mine and prison?
- 2) How did New-Gate serve its community, and how did New-Gate function as its own community?

Objective:

With this combination of tours and activities, students will learn more about life at New-Gate both as a mine and prison. Students will be asked to step into the shoes of the miners and try their luck at finding ore, and then transition to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the site as a prison. Through conversation and hands-on components, students will gain a better understanding of how humans engage with their natural environment, as well as their communities.



Program: Perspectives at New-Gate

Activities: Prison Yard Tour, Sketching Activity, Mine Tour

Recommended Grades: 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th

Subject: Social Studies

Core Standards:

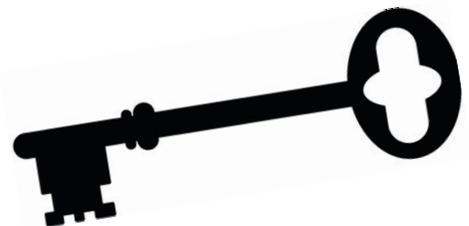
HIST 5.4; HIST 5.5; HIST 8.1; HIST 5.6; HIST 8.4;
CIV 6-7.1; HIST 8.6; HIST 6-8.1

Guiding Questions:

- 1) Why do people have different perspectives?
- 2) How have different perspectives shaped Old New-Gate's history?

Objective:

Engaging with New-Gate's complex history, students will explore the site through the perspectives of the people that once lived there. Students will gain a better understanding of different viewpoints and how they contribute to the history we know.



Programs Continued...

Program: Natural Resources at New-Gate

Activities: Mining Game, Resource Scavenger Hunt, Mine Tour,

Recommended Grades: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th,

Subject: Science

Core Standards:

K-ESS3-1; MS-ESS3-1; MS-ESS3-3; HS-ESS3-1; HS-ESS3-2;
HS-ESS3-6

Guiding Questions:

- 1) What is the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources?
- 2) How have natural resources played a role at New-Gate?

Objective:

This program will give students the opportunity to learn about natural resources and the mining process at the site of a previously operational copper mine. Above ground, students will explore the renewable and non-renewable resources needed to build the prison. Through discussion and discovery the students will have a better understanding of New-Gate's history and the natural resources that have shaped the site.



Program: Ecosystems at New-Gate

Activities: Above Ground Exploration, Mine Tour, Bat Discovery

Recommended Grades: 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th

Subject: Science

Core Standards:

K-LS1-1; K-ESS2-2; K-ESS3-3; 3-LS4-2; 3-LS4-3; 3-LS4-4;
MS-LS2-1; MS-LS2-3; MS-LS2-4; HS-LS2-6; HS-LS2-8

Guiding Questions:

- What is an ecosystem and how do humans impact ecosystems?
How do bats interact with the ecosystems at Old New-Gate?

Objective:

In this program students will explore Old New-Gate through a scientific lens and gain a better understanding of ecosystems. Having the opportunity to study an ecosystem both above and below ground will emphasize the ways in which humans have and can influence ecosystems. As an animal that utilizes the mine and surface, bats will be the primary case study to fully understand ecosystems.



Contact

High School Visits

Please contact with inquires for high school visits. These visits are tailored to individual groups, based on interest and needs.



Contact information

Site Manager: Morgan Bengel

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Phone: (860) 653-3563

Website:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Services/Historic-Preservation>