

School Programs Guide



Bacon's Castle is a **Preservation Virginia** historic property. Founded in 1889, Preservation Virginia is the country's oldest statewide historic preservation group. In addition to advocating for and preserving historic sites across the Commonwealth, Preservation Virginia also owns and operates six historic sites as public museums: **Historic Jamestown** (1607, Jamestown), **Bacon's Castle** (1665, Surry), **Patrick Henry's Scotchtown** (1719, Hanover), **Smith's Fort Plantation** (1763, Surry), **John Marshall House** (1790, Richmond), and **Cape Henry Lighthouse** (1792, Virginia Beach).

About Bacon's Castle: Welcome to Bacon's Castle, the oldest brick home in North America. Built in 1665 for Arthur Allen I, a wealthy merchant and tobacco planter, Bacon's Castle earned its name when rebels occupied it for three months during Bacon's Rebellion in 1676. The four-story manor home is a rare example of Jacobean architecture, the last of its kind in the United States. Its checkered past and colorful reputation make for a site replete with history, interpreted inside and out through signage, an audio tour, and skilled guides. In addition to being a residence for three different families from 1665 to 1972, the Bacon's Castle plantation also existed as a site of forced labor for hundreds of enslaved men, women, and children, as well as indentured individuals in the property's earlier years. Enslaved labor was first introduced to Bacon's Castle in 1673, thus making the property the longest continual site of enslavement in the United States. For over 350 years, Bacon's Castle has stood at the center of a small community in Surry, Virginia, and today, our student tours and programs reflect the events, society, culture, and more from that expanse of Tidewater Virginia history.



Bacon's Castle went up for public auction in 1972 and was purchased by Preservation Virginia. It has since been restored and opened to the public. We look forward to receiving your student or youth group for a field trip tour and/or program in the near future. Please review the following information to plan your visit.

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While all Bacon's Castle site visits, outreach, and virtual programs empower students to develop and exercise their skills in historical inquiry, analyzing primary sources, connecting past to present, and evaluating change over time, a **visit to Bacon's Castle can satisfy the following Virginia Standards of Learning:**

- **Kindergarten:** Skills K.1, History K.2, K.3, Economics K.8, K.9
- **1st Grade:** Skills 1.1, History 1.2, Geography 1.6, Economics 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, Civics 1.13
- **2nd Grade:** Skills 2.1, History 2.3, Geography 2.7, Economics 2.8, 2.9, 2.10, Civics 2.11
- **3rd Grade:** Skills 3.1, Economics 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, Civics 3.12, 3.13
- **4th Grade | Virginia Studies:** Skills VS.1, VS.2, VS.3, VS.4, VS.5
- **5th Grade | U.S. History to 1865:** Skills USI.1, USI.3, USI.4, USI.5
- **7th Grade | Civics and Economics:** Skills CE.1, CE.2
- **8th Grade | World Geography:** Skills WG.1, WG.2, WG.3, WG.4, WG.5, WG.15, WG.17, WG.18

- 10th Grade | World History II (1500-present): Skills WHII.1, WHII.4, WHII.5
- 11th Grade | Virginia/U.S. History: Skills VUS.1, VUS.2, VUS.3, VUS.4
- 12th Grade | U.S. Government: Skills GOVT.1, GOVT.2, GOVT.3

Site Visit Field Experience Components: (\$125/group of 25 or fewer; or, \$5/each for group of 26+)¹

- 45 minute guided tour of the 1665 manor house and grounds
- 30-35 minute Add-On activity

Outreach Program Components: (\$150 and includes 2 repeated sessions in your school)

- 40-50 minute program presentation
- Extra: 30-35 minute Add-On activity

Virtual Program Component: (\$150 and includes 2 repeated sessions)

- 40-50 minute program presentation
- Pre/post-program activity

Traveling Trunk: (\$50 per week plus postage; or, free pick-up and drop-off at Bacon's Castle)

¹ Teachers and school personnel are always free!

Plan Your Visit

House Tours

Bacon's Castle House Tours take students on a comprehensive, interpreter-led exploration of all four floors of America's oldest brick house. Tours can accommodate up to 25 individuals in the house at a time. Larger groups can be divided and rotated through a staff-led Grounds Tour and/or an Add-On Activity in addition to the house tour.

Grounds Tours

In addition to being the oldest brick house in North America, Bacon's Castle also boasts the first English formal garden on the continent, built circa 1680. An interpreter will lead students through the garden and historic outbuildings for a greater understanding of the site and its inhabitants.

Add-On Activities

For larger groups or those wanting to get the most from their visit, Bacon's Castle offers additional programming. These programs are age-group specific and tailored to meet the SOL requirements and developmental abilities of a wide range of students. Each activity is hands-on and led by an interpreter.

Add-On Activities	Traveling Trunk Options	Virtual Program Options
☐ (K-5): The Power of Peanuts ☐ (K-5): Playtime at the Castle ☐ (6-8): Building a Castle ☐ (9-12): Clues in the Landscape	☐ (6-12): Trash Talking History: The Archaeology of Bacon's Rebellion	☐

Add-On Activity Options	Traveling Trunk Options	Virtual or Outreach Program Options
☐ (K-5): The Power of Peanuts Learn about the history of peanut production in Tidewater Virginia and plant your own peanut plant to bring home! ☐ (K-5): Playtime at the Castle What games did children play in colonial America? Try your hand at period favorites on the Castle grounds. ☐ (6-8): Building a Castle Students will explore the construction of Bacon's Castle and try their own techniques to build a castle. ☐ (9-12): Clues in the Landscape Students will examine archaeological features at Bacon's Castle, and learn about	☐ (6-12): Trash Talking History: The Archaeology of Bacon's Rebellion How did Bacon's Rebellion affect the lives of the people living in and around Bacon's Castle? Use clues from a real archaeological dig to find out.	☐ (4-8): Hear Ye, Hear Ye: The First Government in Colonial America Students will examine the beginnings of democracy in Virginia with the establishment of the General Assembly in 1619. How did the General Assembly work? What did this government mean to Virginia's inhabitants? Where can we see its legacy today? ☐ (4-8): Money, Barter, and the Plantation Economy Students will explore the financial foundations of colonial Virginia through primary sources and objects from Bacon's Castle. ☐ (9-12): Bacon's Rebellion of

the skills archaeologists use to learn from the things they uncover.		1676 Using primary sources and artifacts, students will examine the events leading up to Bacon's Rebellion, as well as its aftermath and legacy.
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