

School Programs Guide

About John Marshall House: Constructed in 1790, the John Marshall House was the primary home of the 4th Chief Justice, John Marshall. Marshall is best remembered for formalizing the U.S. Supreme Court and elevating the judiciary's status as a co-equal branch of government, accomplished through landmark court cases like *Marbury v. Madison* (1803). During Marshall's residence in Richmond, the house stood in an increasingly urban state capitol, which presents an interesting counter-narrative to the public's general understanding of Founding Fathers and their plantation-style homes. In addition to serving as a residence to the Marshall family, the John Marshall House also existed as a site of forced labor for over 65 enslaved men, women, and children over the course of the house's 50 years of residency.



John Marshall House Student Programs: Our educational offerings for students specialize in constitutional and Supreme Court history, as well as politics, society, and urban slavery in Early America. All John Marshall House site visits, outreach, and virtual programs empower students to develop and/or exercise their skills in historical inquiry, analyzing primary sources, connecting past to present, and evaluating change over time.

Field Trip Components:

While we are happy to do our best to accommodate specific needs for your visit to the John Marshall House, the foundations of our student field trip experience include both a:

- 30 – 35 minute guided tour of the John Marshall House
- 30 – 35 minute add-on activity of your choice

House Tour Options (Select One)		
☐ John Marshall House Flagship Tour	All Grade Levels	Explore the lives of John, his wife Polly, their ten children, and the 8-16 enslaved individuals laboring on his Richmond property. This program also explores Marshall's career on the Supreme Court and the landmark cases he heard as Chief Justice.
☐ Eyewitness Object Tour	K-3rd Grade	Students are led through a short historical mapping activity inside the John Marshall House. Students will consider the function and use of historical objects and rooms in the home. This tour will also begin conceptualizing ideas of past & present and change & continuity with younger students.
☐ Spirit of '76: John Marshall, The Revolution, and the New Nation	6-12th Grade	Explore the origins and rhetoric of the American Revolution, along with stories and impacts from John Marshall's time fighting for independence. Exercising skills in historical inquiry, primary source analysis, spatial understanding, and critical thinking, students will consider why, how, and for whom America's founding generation debated the future of the country. This tour also discusses John Marshall's experience in and contribution to political planning in the new nation.

Add On Activities (Select One)		
☐ Robes of Justice	K-6th Grade	Learn the history behind John Marshall's black Supreme Court robe, and consider its symbolism in American history. Students will decorate paper judicial robes with designs and motifs that represent important qualities for a Supreme Court Justice.
☐ Political Parties and Personalities of the New Nation	6-12 Grade	In a game of charades, students identify key political parties, concepts, and people from the late 18th and early 19th centuries in the United States. This program reinforces student's understanding of people and political ideas that defined the early American republic.
☐ Urban Living and Urban Slavery in the New Nation	6-12 Grade	This program will utilize historical analysis and critical thinking skills to compare and contrast urban and rural living – and by extension, also urban and rural slavery – in colonial and Early Virginia..
☐ Making up America: The 3 Branches of Government	8-12 grade	This program helps students strengthen their understanding of the structure of the three branches of government, the principle of separation of powers, and the ways in which these branches interact.

In addition to hosting students on-site, The John Marshall House is excited to also offer a number of original student virtual programs.

Outreach or Virtual Program Options		
☐ John Marshall At Home	7–12th grade	In our signature presentation, we will examine all of who John Marshall was on and off the bench during his residence in Early Republic Richmond.
☐ How Things Work: The Three Branches of Government	5– 8th grade	The U.S. Constitution devised a three-branch system of government for the new nation in 1789, but how does this radical democratic system work, and what does it entail?
☐ Black Rebellion in Early America	6– 12th grade	This will highlight three significant Black rebellions across the United States within the Early Republic period and consider the effect these rebellions had on shaping politics, law, and slavery in the United States.
☐ Urban Slavery in America	6–12th grade	What is urban slavery and how is it both different, and perhaps not so different, than what is considered plantation slavery?
☐ Changing the Constitution: The Reconstruction Amendments	6–12th grade	How are amendments added to the U.S. Constitution and why are they important? How did the 13th-15th Amendments for Black citizenship and rights impact American law and society?
☐ Changing the Constitution: The 19th Amendment:	6–12th grade	How are amendments added to the U.S. Constitution and why are they important? How did the 19th Amendment for women’s suffrage impact American law and society?
☐ How Things Work: The U.S. Supreme Court	7–10th grade	This program will provide students with an overview of the Supreme Court and its history; famous justices, and their role in shaping the court; and the enduring legacy the court has on our nation’s history.
Debating the Nation: Ratifying the Constitution	7–10th grade	What did it take to create the United States Constitution?? Whose voices counted in the debates over the Constitution, and who was left out? This virtual program explores the proposition of the Constitution and the process--and debate--of ratifying it into law.
☐ Greatest Hits: Landmark Moments from the Marshall Court, 1801-1835	9-12th grade	Remembered as the Great Chief Justice, John Marshall served for 34-years in the U.S. Supreme Court. There he cast many court decisions that crafted the American judiciary. This virtual program examines some of the most impactful cases heard on the Supreme Court between 1801 and 1835

Scheduling, Pricing, and Policies

- Pricing
 - Field Trips: \$10/student and non-school chaperones; school personnel are always free.
 - Outreach Programs: \$150/program which may include 1 repeated sessions; additional sessions for \$50/each
 - Virtual Programs: \$150/program which may include 1 repeated sessions; additional sessions for \$50/each
- Scheduling
 - Reservations must be made at least two weeks ahead of your desired date and may be made by contacting the Preservation Virginia Education Manager at bgeraghty@preservationvirginia.org or the John Marshall House Site Coordinator at gweidhaas@preservationvirginia.org
 - Reservations must be placed with a 50% deposit of the cost of admission.
 - Remaining price of admission may be paid at the time of the program and acceptable forms of payment include organizational check, credit card, or cash.
- Policies
 - Deposits are refundable if a field trip or student program is canceled no later than 1 week prior to the visit. Deposits are non-refundable for cancellations beyond that point, or no-shows day-of.
 - Every 6 students must be accompanied by 1 chaperone for field trips to John Marshall House

Group Size and Logistics

- We can accommodate up to 40 kids per 2-hour field trip to John Marshall House
- No limitations on outreach or virtual programs

Contact Us

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