

ONEIDA COMMUNITY MANSION HOUSE

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



A National Historic Landmark

170 Kenwood Avenue Oneida, New York 13421
www.oneidacommunity.org



About Our Programs

The Oneida Community Mansion House, a National Historic Landmark, offers lessons designed for a variety of grade levels.

Each of our educational programs is based on the New York State Learning and Common Core Standards.

Teachers who schedule a lesson can receive classroom preparation materials and enrichment activities to enhance the learning experience. Pre-field trip classroom visits are also available.

Distance learning options via the internet are also available for some lessons, including “The Oneida Community: Utopian Window on Nineteenth Century America.”

Please contact us for a complete catalog of our on-line programs.

Classroom Connection: 4th Grade

New York State Social Studies Framework: Social Studies Practices: Gathering, Interpreting, and Using Evidence; Comparison and Contextualization

Children of the Mansion House

“Children of the Mansion House” introduces students to the historically significant Oneida Community (1848-1880), one of America’s more famous experiments in group living. The lesson challenges students to consider what ideas and practices make a community, and how children experienced living in a utopian community.

The program takes place in the Community’s residential Mansion House — a National Historic Landmark unique as a local resource for experiencing history. Using examples from our collection, students will discover how children lived, dressed, played, and learned in the nineteenth century Community.



Classroom Connection: 4th Grade

New York State Social Studies Framework:

WESTWARD MOVEMENT AND INDUSTRIALIZATION: 4.6f Between 1865 and 1915, rapid industrialization occurred in New York State.

Over time, industries and manufacturing continued to grow.

The Oneida Community and Local Industrial Development

“The Oneida Community and Local Industrial Development” explores how work distinguished the Oneida Community, and was central to the economy of Central New York. In the 1860s and 1870s, the Oneida Community became the largest manufacturer of animal traps. By 1914, they had transitioned to the production of silverware, making Oneida Ltd. known throughout the United States.

This lesson uses material culture and objects to bring this important story of industrial innovation to life for students.



Classroom Connection: 7th Grade

New York State Social Studies Framework:

7.7 REFORM MOVEMENTS: 7.7a The Second Great Awakening, which had a strong showing in New York State, inspired reform movements.

Reform and Revivals in Upstate New York

“Reform and Revivals in Upstate New York” introduces students to the religious enthusiasm that swept New York State in the early 19th century and which earned it the nickname of the “Burned Over District.”

Placing the Oneida Community at the center of the story, this lesson describes the origins of the Second Great Awakening. Main precepts of Oneida Community theology – fellowship and selflessness – are introduced using primary source materials, including the Community’s newspaper, *The Circular*.

The lesson also compares the Oneida Community with other religious trends and considers ways in which religious groups sought to reform society, beginning with themselves.



Classroom Connection: 8th Grade

New York State Social Studies Framework: 8.6 WORLD WAR II: 8.6b

The United States fought a war on multiple fronts. At home, the economy was converted to war production, and essential resources were rationed to ensure adequate supplies for military use.

Oneida Goes to War

“Oneida Goes to War” is the story of Oneida Ltd.’s involvement in United States military production during World War II. Oneida Ltd. was one of the few companies to receive the War department’s “E” for excellence rating four times.

Students will learn about how Oneida Ltd. shifted production from silverware to stainless steel surgical instruments for the military, airplane components, buckles for parachutes, and produced a wheel bearing essential to tanks and aircraft. Students will use the Community Commando and other primary sources to understand the lives and contribution of American workers to the war effort.

Lastly, “Oneida Goes to War” showcases Oneida’s wartime campaign “Back Home for Keeps,” which engages students in conversations about gender expectations during and after World War II.



Classroom Connection: 11th grade

New York State Social Studies Framework: Connects to the unifying theme of Development and Transformation of Social Structures (SOC).

AP United States History: Learning Objective Culture and Society (CUL) which “focuses on the roles that ideas, beliefs, social mores, and creative expression have played in shaping the United States, as well as how various identities, cultures, and values have been preserved or changed in different contexts of U.S. history.” (CUL 1.0) (CUL 3.0). Ideas about the Second Great Awakening and Utopian Communities are situated in Period 4.

The Oneida Community: Utopian Window on Nineteenth Century America

In “The Oneida Community: Utopian Window on Nineteenth Century America” students explore the Perfectionist community’s history and how it challenged orthodox beliefs and social practices.

Drawing on valuable primary source examples, the lesson enables enriching discussions about important themes in American history including class, gender, reform, religion, and utopian experiments, using the Oneida Community as a case study.



Plan Your Visit

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Saturday 9-5; Sunday 12-5

Visiting us:

We welcome your class to visit the Mansion House.

When: Monday through Friday mornings in the Fall and Spring.

Throughout the day on weekdays during January and February (major holidays excepted).

Size of Group:

Primary Grades: One chaperone for every six students

Secondary Grades: One chaperone for every ten students.

Cost: Lessons or Tours: \$3 per student, teacher and chaperone.

To Schedule: Please make your reservation at least four weeks in advance

Outreach Lessons:

Our knowledgeable staff would love to bring Oneida history to your classroom. We offer in-person guest lectures and distance learning via Skype.

When: Weekdays during the school year

Cost: Call or e-mail for pricing

To Schedule: Please make your reservations at least four weeks in advance

Transportation funds are available for schools in Madison, Oneida, and Onondaga Counties. Please contact us for information.

Contact Information

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