

First Grade Tour Scope



Watkinsville, originally incorporated as “Big Springs” in 1801, served as the county seat of Clarke County until 1871 when Athens became the county seat. In 1875 Oconee County was established, and Watkinsville became its county seat. Eagle Tavern is one of the earliest surviving structures in Oconee County. Eagle Tavern was built circa 1801 when Watkinsville was a frontier town on the edge of Creek Indian Territories. It served as a local meeting place, a resting place for weary stage coach travelers, a mercantile, and, later, a boarding house. In 1806, the first courthouse was built across the street from Eagle Tavern. Today students can explore their local history and government through tours of Eagle Tavern and the circa 1939 Courthouse including the Board of Commissioners, a courtroom, judge's chambers, and the Old Jail. The Oconee County Welcome Center staff and volunteers will work with you to coordinate tours and plan a picnic lunch with a visit from one of our local leaders.

First grade students touring Eagle Tavern will explore the role of the river and the piedmont landscape in exploration and settlement of the area. Using their existing knowledge of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and the Lewis and Clark expedition, students will expand their understanding of daily life in the early Federal period, the realities of living on the frontier in Clarke County, and the role of westward expansion in changes that occurred in this area throughout the 1800's. Eagle Tavern's mercantile will introduce students to goods that could be purchased and lead to a discussion of why certain items would be made at home versus purchased and why. Students will compare and contrast these experiences to life in the present. Through a tour of the Courthouse, students will learn about services provided by local government.

Georgia Social Studies Standards Met: SS1H1 a&b, SS1G1, SS1E1, and SS1E2

