



Classroom activities:

A. **Oral history** is a way of passing down information by word-of-mouth from one generation to another. While the core of the story is usually retained, experience tells us that each time anyone reconstructs a story from memory, changes to the story are made.

Many museums have an active oral history program for recording and collecting family and community stories. Do you have a family story that your grandmother told your mother, and now your mother tells you? Do you have other family **oral histories**?

B. Another way to learn about the past is to see it preserved. For instance, Opal Lawrence Historical Park has been returned in many ways to its early days. This is done through **historical preservation** methods.

See how many blanks you can fill in after you tour the park.

1. The name of the homestead is the _____.
2. Mr. Lawrence began building it in 1876 and it originally was in the _____ township.
3. A _____, or small room, sits atop the structure, which is protected from lightening by _____.
4. The trees used to cut stumps for the foundation are called _____, and grow in this area naturally. They are very hardy and insect resistant. They have a French name.
5. There are very unique features to the multi-story's first floor _____. Can you describe them?
6. At one time, the Lawrence farmstead consisted of hundreds of acres. Now, only _____ acres remain.
7. The large structure on the property is a _____ and was used for _____.
8. Cedar trees line the yard from Kearney Street to the house. The tree lines were used for _____.
9. Mr. Lawrence had _____ daughters named for _____.
(BONUS: Name the daughters.)

Choose from these words to fill in the blanks above:

precious jewels	Stephen Decatur Lawrence Home	a carriage alley
bois d'arc	belvedere	barn
feeding cattle	thirteen	lightening rods
Long Creek	five	ceilings

C. If one object in the Lawrence house could speak, what would it tell you about living in the early 1900s? What would it say about the Lawrence family?