



Haunted House History Lesson

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STANDARDS:

Historical Thinking Standards:

- Standard 2: Historical Comprehension
- Standard 3: Historical Analysis and Interpretation
- Standard 4: Historical Research Capabilities

LESSON:

Identify a haunted house or building in your community.

Learn about the site from published sources. Check local histories and historical newspapers to learn more about the hauntings and the building in general.

Try to find people from the community who know about the ghosts or past owners to interview. Try contacting the current owners, local historical society or library to learn more about the site and people involved.

Research the people involved in the location.

- House Origins: Who was the first owner? Why was the house built? What did the house look like originally?
- House over Time: Who else lived in the house? How many owners has it had? How has the house changed?
- Events at the House: Was anyone born at the house? Were there weddings performed at the house? Did anyone die at the house? Was the house used for anything besides a family dwelling?
- House's Ghosts: Who may be haunting the house? Why are they haunting it? When do the ghosts typically appear? What are they doing when they appear? When was the first ghost reported?
- House photos: Find historical photos of the location or people involved. Look for old postcards or family photos. Check with local historical societies or libraries as well as searching online. Take a current photo of the house as well.

Resources to use in your research: historical newspapers, census records, city directories, vital records, cemetery records, land records, local histories, and more.

Present research findings. Students can write a report, create a video, make an oral presentation, create a poster or find another creative way to present their findings. Whichever way they choose to present their findings they should include images to help tell the story.

Note: *This lesson can be altered in order to study other historical locations. How did sites in your community gain historical importance? What is the history of the location? What is the story of its owners?*