

Check your ECCE Reading Skills – Part 3 – Activity 3

Key and Item Analysis

Lowell National Historic Park The Boot Cotton Mills Museum

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, the history of America's Industrial Revolution is commemorated in Lowell, Massachusetts. The Boot Cotton Mills Museum with its operating weave room of 88 power looms, "mill girl" boardinghouses, the Suffolk Mill Turbine Exhibit and guided tours tell the story of the transition from farm to factory, and trace industrial technology. The park, which has about 500,000 visitors a year, includes textile mills, worker housing, 5.6 miles of canals, and 19th century commercial buildings. The Visitor Center is open year round 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. Call ahead for specific exhibit hours. The Park is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Fees, Costs, Rates

Canal boat tours run seven days a week from late June to early September. (Tours are not offered during the Lowell Park Folk Festival which is held the last full weekend in July). Adults - \$4.00; Youths 6-16 - \$2.00; Seniors and Children 5 and under free. Admission to the Boot Cotton Mills Museum; Adults - \$4.00; Youths 6-16 - \$2.00; Seniors and children 5 and under are free. There are special discounts for groups of twenty people or more.

Facilities and Opportunities

Visitor Center

Begin your visit at Market Mills, the former Lowell Manufacturing Company mill complex, one of the city's original textile mills. Market Mills houses the National Park Visitor Center, where you can make reservations for tours, purchase tour tickets, explore exhibits, and view the award-winning video program, Lowell: The Industrial Revolution. Boot Cotton Mills Museum: Experience the roar of a 1920's weave room where cloth was woven on wooden looms plus interactive exhibits and video programs about the Industrial Revolution, and the rise, fall and rebirth of Lowell. Also in the Boot Mill, check for daily happenings at the Tsongas Industrial History Center and the New England Folklife Center. You can shop at the Museum Store.

Working People Exhibit

The Working People Exhibit tells the human story of the Industrial Revolution by concentrating on the working people of Lowell. Housed in Boot Mill boardinghouse this exhibit explores the history of "mill girls" and immigrants. 40 French Street. Hours vary by season. **Admission:** Free.

Special Events, Programs

Suffolk Mill Waterpower Tour

Travel with a guide by trolley to the Suffolk Mill Turbine Exhibit where you will see an operating 19th century turbine being powered by water from a canal constructed in 1848. Follow the transmission of waterpower from the Northern Canal through the turbine to an operating power loom. **Admission:** Free. This 90-minute tour is offered most days at 2:30 pm. Reservations are suggested. Call the park at 979-5000 to check the availability of this tour.

"Hey Jack Kerouac"

This walking tour takes you to the bars, social clubs and diners where American novelist Jack Kerouac and the youth of his generation hung out. Find out what inspired him in his art and writing. The tour begins at the Visitor Center. Call for scheduling information.

A Time for Play

These mobile play stations will provide an opportunity to play with games of "yesteryear" and even provide a chance to make a toy to take home. Offered Saturday & Sunday at 11:00 am and daily at 3:30 pm at the Boot Cotton Mills Museum.

"Housework vs. Leisure Time"

This tour will look at the job of the housewife. What kinds of work had to be performed in order for a woman to take advantage of leisure time in the late 1800's and early 1900's? Did the development of household technology improve the amount of leisure time for women? Investigate the past and speculate on the future in this look into women's lives. Available only on weekdays.

Item Difficulty: Moderate

1. What does the text say about boat tours?

- A. They are only offered on week-ends.
- B. They are available all summer.
- C. They are free for children under five.
- D. There are no discounts.

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C. In the paragraph with the title 'Fees, Cost, Rates', it states that both children under 5 and senior citizens do not have to pay for boat tours: "Senior and children 5 and under are free."

Item Difficulty: More challenging

2. What are visitors able to do on the Waterpower Tour?

- A. They can see the history of "mill girls."
- B. They can see how cloth was made in the past.
- C. They can watch an award-winning video.
- D. They can listen to a guide.

Answer: D

Explanation: The correct answer is D. In the first line of the paragraph with the title 'Suffolk Mill Waterpower Tour', it states that there will be a guide on the tour: "Travel with a guide by trolley to the Suffolk Mill Turbine Exhibit ..."

Item Difficulty: More challenging

3. What does the text say about the Waterpower Tour?

- A. It is available every day.
- B. It has an entrance fee.
- C. It lasts one and a half hours.
- D. It requires reservations for all visitors.

Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is C. In the paragraph with the title 'Suffolk Mill Waterpower Tour', it states that the tour is free, but is offered on most days (not every day). It also states that the tour is one and a half hours long: "**Admission:** Free. This 90-minute tour is offered most days at 2:30 pm."

Item Difficulty: More challenging

4. What videos can you see at the museum?

- A. The rise, fall and rebirth of Lowell
- B. The 1920's weave room
- C. The history of the "Mill Girls"
- D. The life of Jack Kerouac

Answer: A

Explanation: The correct answer is A. In the paragraph with the title 'Visitor Center', it states that visitors can watch "...video programs about the Industrial Revolution, and the rise, fall and rebirth of Lowell."

Item Difficulty: Moderate

5. Which special event would be preferred by someone interested in Literature?

- A. A Time for Play
- B. Hey Jack Kerouac
- C. Housework vs. Leisure Time
- D. Suffolk Mill Waterpower Tour

Answer: B

Explanation: The correct answer is B. In the paragraph with the title 'Hey Jack Kerouac', it states that visitors will learn about the things that encouraged the American novelist, Jack Kerouac, to write: "what inspired him in his art and writing."
