

Exploration 8

Level II: Organizing and processing information

After an architect has documented the existing conditions, the next step is organizing the information to make it useful. Architects may want to recognize, remember or recall it in a straightforward manner, or may want to organize and process it in different ways.

Questions at Level II require us to use reasoning skills about objects, events, phenomena, or ideas. We may be asked to compare or contrast, categorize, analyze, explain, infer, generalize, or develop concepts and arguments. We may be asked to identify motives and causes or find relationships and connections. We can use questions to make judgments about the quality of objects, about the validity of ideas, or about the merit of alternative solutions. Once your students have begun to ask some questions of their own, you can encourage further encouragement through use of cueing, probing, clarifying and convergent questions.

For this level, we will also be looking at Mt. Washington Tavern, which is part of the Ft. Necessity Battlefield site.

Materials:

- Images of Mt. Washington Tavern
- Documentation from Level I activity
- Something to write and draw on
- Something to write or draw with

Objective:

After/before a visit to Mt. Washington Tavern, students will use visual and spatial analyses of the context/representations of the context and their work from Exploration #7 to answer questions comparing the tavern to the fort in regard to context, materials, structure, function, and appearance.

Standards:

- Arts: NA-VA 1, 2, 3, 6
- English: NL-ENG 7, 12
- Mathematics: NM-MEA 1, 2; NM-GEO 2; NM-PROB. CONN 1, 3; NM-PROB.COMM 1; NM-PROB. REP 1, 3
- Science: NS 1, 2, 4
- Social Studies: NSS-USH 3, 5; NSS-G 1, 5, 6

Procedures:

- Use the following questions and instructions to organize and process information about Mt. Washington Tavern. These could be used as a pre- or post-visit activity.
- Using your documentation from Level I as a starting point, add and augment information to answer the following:

1. Context

- a. What's adjacent to each building—now and in the past?
- b. What are the clues to each building's original surroundings? How has each building's site and location affected its use over time?
- c. Show these adjacencies and clues on your site plan.

2. Materials

- a. Where are the materials in each building from?
- b. Do you see other structures in the area made of the same materials?
- c. Which building do you think is stronger? Why? Is there a sense of enclosure or open-ness? Does the building allow a lot of light? Why or why not?

3. Structure

- a. Why do you think the "architect" chose the methods and materials to build each structure this way?
- b. How does each building meet the land—excavated, even with the ground, on a hill, isolated, in the trees, etc.? Is there a foundation to each building? Can you see a material? Does it have a basement?
- c. Does the building keep out the rain? If so, how?

4. Circulation

- a. How do you move through the building? Where is the circulation in the building? Are there stairs? Where are they? Why?
- b. Does the building give you any clues in how to move through it? In what ways?
- c. What spaces/rooms are in the building? How are they organized?
- d. Draw a basic diagram/map of Mt. Washington Tavern showing the spaces, hallway, stairs, doorways, windows, fireplaces, etc. Architects would call this a floorplan.

5. Function

- a. Which building serves its use best? Why?
- b. In the tavern, apart from the furnishings, are there any clues to the functions of the rooms? What are they? Include these on your floorplan.

- c. Why does the tavern have more than one floor? What happens on each floor? How do you know?

6. Appearance

- a. What parts of the building's appearance are due to its function? What parts are for decoration?
- b. How has the building's appearance changed over time? Why has its appearance change? In your opinion, did these changes improve or detract from the building's original design? Why?
- c. When do you think this building was constructed? What are the clues?

The information and images below are courtesy of the National Park Services' Fort Necessity website. For additional photos and more information, please refer to <http://www.nps.gov/fone/>

Mt. Washington Tavern

Built in 1816, on land once owned by George Washington, the Tavern is best known as a stagecoach and resting stop along the National Road. Visit this "top of the line" tavern located adjacent to the Ft. Necessity National Battlefield to experience "comfort" as defined in the early 19th century.



