



Harriet Jacobs Field Trip Summary

Historic Edenton, North Carolina's second oldest town and former colonial capital, is best known for its colonial history and its contributions to the political, cultural, and economic development of our state and nation in the 18th and 19th centuries. As a vibrant port town, Edenton not only contributed to the commercial growth of North Carolina, but also served as a vital escape route for enslaved people seeking freedom in the North via the Maritime Underground Railroad. The story of Harriet Jacobs, an enslaved woman who escaped in 1842 and became an abolitionist and relief worker during the Civil War, is told at Historic Edenton.

This education program, designed for 8th grade and above grade levels, is a site-based learning experience concerning the state's history of slavery.

Program Goals

The story of Harriet Jacobs of Edenton is a component for meeting the following NCSCS Goals for Social Studies and Reading & Literature:

- **3.04** Describe the development of the institution of slavery in the State and nation, and assess its impact on the economic, social, and political conditions.
- **4.04** Evaluate the importance of the roles played by individuals at the state and national levels during the Civil War and Reconstruction Period.

Reading & Lit:

- **RL.9-10.2** Determine a theme of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
- **RL.8.3** Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- **RL.5.6** Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.

Program Objectives

1. Students will have a better understanding of the hardships faced by enslaved people and freedmen, and their roles in 19th century North Carolina.
2. Students will have an in-depth understanding of the particular hardships faced by Harriet Jacobs through her life story while enslaved, as a freedom-seeker, and as an abolitionist, activist, and author.
3. Students will understand Edenton and its built landscape's role in slavery and the Maritime Underground Railroad.