

## Civil War Museum School Group Tour Information

King Cotton

Grades: 4th and 5th

Duration: 2 hours

King Cotton is a two-hour program designed for 4th and 5th grade students. This program explores the role of cotton and slavery within the Southern economy through a hands-on classroom experience, *Seeing the Elephant* 360 movie viewing, and small group exhibit exploration. The program also pays particular attention to why slaves were used in a plantation economic system, what type of work slaves did, and how they could rebel against their owners.

In the classroom, students learn about the importance of cotton and the role of slavery in America in the years before the Civil War. Using facilitated, hands-on interactives and a scenario based activity, students will leave the program with an understanding of what really happened on the Underground Railroad.

Students will also work in small groups with a teacher or chaperons to answer questions about Civil War themes in our museum exhibits. Students will work collaboratively to gain knowledge about such topics as slavery, the life of a soldier, or Reconstruction. The students will then share out their findings with their classmates.

### Program Goals:

- Students will make observations by looking at images, interacting with the teaching collection and explore the exhibit.
- Students will participate in program generated discussion with other students, teachers and museum facilitator.
- Students will understand how cotton and slavery influenced South economy.
- Students will understand the dangers and hardships that met runaway slaves, as well as the myths surrounding the Underground Railroad.
- Students will work collaboratively in the exhibit to learn more about African Americans and their involvement in the Civil War.

### Learning Standards:

Wisconsin Social Science Performance Standards B.4.1, B.4.5, B.8.10

Common Core: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1.D, CCSS.ELA.LITERACY-SL.4.3

Illinois Social Studies Standards: SS.IS.5.3-5, SS.H.1.4, SS.H.3.4

