

FAUSTIANA FARMS



NODAWAY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Created By: Kellie Higley and John Derrick Foster

Introduction:

In 1920, F.M. Townsend purchased Faustiana Farms in Maryville, Missouri. It is a well-known horse farm that was owned by the Prather Family. It is located around where the Maryville Country Club is today. Lester Swaney managed the farm as well as bred, trained, showed, and sold the horses. Many of the horses were sold on the worldwide market. They went on to win numerous titles and harness races, and some even won the Kentucky Derby.

Missouri Learning Standard:

GLE SS5 1.6

Describe **human characteristics** of a place, (such as population composition, architecture, kinds of economic and **recreational activities**, transportation and communication networks, etc.)

Lesson Objectives:

- I can describe the Kentucky Derby.
- I can identify the accomplishments of the different horses that came from Faustiana Farms including the multiple titles and Kentucky Derby winners.
- I can explain historical accomplishments of the ownership of Faustiana Farms.
- I can explain the history of horse breeding in Maryville, Missouri.

Background Information:

The classic American horse race, the Kentucky Derby is the oldest consecutively held thoroughbred race in America. It is run annually on the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. Along with the Preakness in mid-May, and Belmont in early June, it is the first jewel of the coveted Triple Crown of Thoroughbred racing, which has been won by only Eleven horses since 1919. Triple Crown winners include memorable names such as Secretariat, Seattle Slew, Whirlaway, and Affirmed. Whirlaway is one of the featured horses in the Nodaway County Historical Museum, and is the cornerstone for the famous Faustiana Farms. The original farm was owned by the Prather family and located in the area of where the Country Club and Westside-Donaldson Park are found today. By 1920, F.M. Townsend had purchased a farm for raising horses south of West First Street, near what is now the Country Club. The story is that the Prather family allowed him to call his farm the Faustiana Farm in exchange for a bag of oats. Lester Swaney managed the farm, bred, trained, showed, and sold the horses.

Artifacts in the museum display:

- News clippings of major accomplishments, ownership, jockeys, horses, and Faustiana Farms
- Trophies from an array of different horse races
- Pictures of some of the infamous horses that trained at Faustiana farms
- Horse blinders, saddles, whips, shoes, and blankets

Activities that teachers could do with the students before visiting the museum:

- Teachers can do a read aloud with the students to give background information about the Kentucky Derby and how big the event is. This will shed light on the event, and students can write and discuss the importance of having Kentucky Derby winners from Nodaway County. Books the teacher may include are:
 - *Great Racehorses* - John Green
 - PDF download <http://nyfreebooks.com/2315766-get-free-great-racehorses-by-john-green-free-pdf-download.html>
 - *The Mystery at the Kentucky Derby* - Carole Marsh
 - *D is for Derby* - Helen Wilbur
 - PDF download <http://epdflibrary.com/pdf1/free.php?asin=158536813X>
 - *Derby Day: A Pop-Up Celebration of the Kentucky Derby* - Pamela Pease
 - PDF download <http://www.marcellaciarralli.eu/download-pdf-derby-day-book-by-paintbox-press.pdf>
 - *Little Freddie at the Kentucky Derby* - Kathryn Coconut
- Teachers can do a short reading comprehension sheet with a five question quiz at the end to give students background information about the Kentucky Derby and how important the event is. This will shed light on the event, and students can write and discuss the importance of having Kentucky Derby winners from Nodaway County.
 - http://www.abcteach.com/free/d/derby_a.pdf
- YouTube video: You can show this video at the beginning of the activities in order to spark the attention of your students. This is the Kentucky Derby Race in 2015 where American Pharaoh won.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5h0Ub2wmEDs>

Activities that teachers would do with the students as they visit the museum:

While the students are at the museum they will be looking at the Faustiana Farms Exhibit and the Race Horse Exhibit. While they are looking at the exhibits, they will be doing a small scavenger hunt. This scavenger hunt will have the students in pairs. It will ask them to find things like a horse that has won the Kentucky Derby or someone important who worked at Faustiana farms. They will be using the graphic organizer that is attached. If possible, make sure each group has a digital camera to take pictures at the museum to use on their posters they make after their museum trip.

Assessment/Follow up back at the school

When you arrive back to school, the students can report on a variety of different topics of choice by making a poster. Below are a few prompts.

- Choose a race horse that you found interesting at the museum. On your poster share five facts about the horse, why you chose the horse, and what its accomplishments were. Make sure to include a photo of the horse and his name.

- With your photos from the museum. Explain what tools you need to raise race horses. Show the names of the tools, pictures of the tool, why they are important, and what they are used for.
- Pick a famous person from Faustiana Farms that you saw at the museum. On your poster include the name of the person, a photo, the reason they are known at the farm, and some of the things they did at the farm.

References & Resources:

- <https://www.louisville.com/content/essential-louisville-5-childrens-books-about-kentucky-derby>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5h0Ub2wmEDs>
- <http://petcaretips.net/kentucky-derby-history.html>

Clue:	Answer:	2 Facts:
Find a horse from Faustiana Farms that has won a horse race like the Kentucky Derby.		
Find a person that was important to the Faustiana Farms.		
Find some tools that were important for raising race horses.		
Find the clothing that people would wear to race horses or to watch horse races.		
Find wear Faustiana Farms was located and what is in its place today.		

