Quick Facts about The Old Barracks Museum

- Built in 1758 as winter quarters for British troops in the French & Indian War
- Used by both Continental and British armies during the Revolutionary War
- Became a military hospital in February 1777 under the order of General George Washington. The hospital served primarily as a smallpox inoculation hospital to protect soldiers and camp followers from the world’s deadliest disease. This was very likely the first mass medical procedure in the West.
- Became a museum in 1903, and has represented New Jersey at 3 World’s Fairs and is a symbol of New Jersey’s history
- Hosts the annual Battle of Trenton Reenactment the Saturday after Christmas every year as part of Patriots’ Week celebrations
**Era 1. Colonization and Settlement (1585–1763)**
North American Colonial societies adapted European governmental, economic, and cultural institutions and ideologies to meet their needs in the New World.

**Proficiency Level:** By the end of grade 12

**Core Idea:** Global interconnections create complex spatial patterns at multiple scales that continue to change over time.

**Performance Expectations:** 6.1.12.GeoGI.1.a: Explain how geographic variations impacted economic development in the New World, and its role in promoting trade with global markets (e.g., climate, soil conditions, other natural resources)

**Programs that meet these Performance Expectations:** Guided Gallery Tour, All Is Threatened and Endangered: New Jersey in the French & Indian War

**How we meet this:** Participants will learn the circumstances leading up to the French & Indian War including a struggle for control of the waterways and fur markets. Information will be provided on Native American alliances and contributions during this global conflict.

**Core Idea:** Historical events and developments were shaped by the unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts.

**Performance Expectations:** 6.1.12.HistoryCC.1.a: Assess the impact of the interactions and conflicts between native groups and North American settlers.

**Programs that meet these Performance Expectations:** Guided Gallery Tour, All Is Threatened and Endangered: New Jersey in the French & Indian War

**How we meet this:** Participants will learn about the following: reasons for the French & Indian War, the different countries involved in the French & Indian War (and the larger scope of the Seven Years’ War), how the Native Americans factored into the French & Indian War, the ways that French and British settlers communicated and interacted with Native Americans, and the role of the Lenape/Delaware people of New Jersey and nearby Pennsylvania in the French & Indian War. Participants will also learn that many Native American groups sided with the French instead of the British because the French were more interested in establishing trade alliances than settling the land. Without the trade alliances that were established between the French and Native Americans, certain goods would not have been available to both European and Native American markets. Visitors will also be able to see artifacts of the Lenape culture. For example, an original Lenape dugout canoe and excavated Lenape tools and pipes will be displayed in the gallery.

**Era 2. Revolution and the New Nation (1754–1820s)**
The war for independence was the result of growing ideological, political, geographic, economic, and religious tensions resulting from Britain’s centralization policies and practices. The United States Constitution and Bill of Rights were designed to provide a framework for the American system of government, while also protecting individual rights. Debates about individual rights, states’ rights, and federal power shaped the development of the political institutions and practices of the new Republic.

**Proficiency Level:** by the end of grade 12

**Core Idea:** Constitutions, laws, treaties, and international agreements seek to maintain order at the national, regional, and international levels of governance.

**Performance Expectations:** 6.1.12.CivicsPI.2.a: Prepare and articulate a point of view about the importance of individual rights, separation of powers, and governmental structure in New Jersey’s 1776 constitution and the United States Constitution

**Programs that meet these Performance Expectations:** Meet the Past, Connecting to the Revolution, New Jersey Divided, Fighting for My Freedom, Patriots in Petticoats

**How we meet these Performance Expectations:** Interpreters will present the voices of diverse individuals who helped to form New Jersey’s 1776 constitution and present reasons for why portions were adopted. And who it represented and didn’t.
Core Idea: Resources impact what is produced and employment opportunities.

Performance Expectations: 6.1.12.EconEM.2.c: Analyze how technological developments transformed the economy, created international markets, and affected the environment in New Jersey and the nation.

Programs that meet these Performance Expectations: Meet the Past, Connecting the Revolution, Guided Gallery Tour, All Is Threatened and Endangered: New Jersey in the French & Indian War

How we meet these Performance Expectations: Meet the Past: In the medical portion of the program, participants will learn how smallpox inoculations changed the course of the Revolution and the impact of that innovation on New Jersey and the rest of the colonies.

How we meet these Performance Expectations: Guided Gallery Tour/All Is Threatened and Endangered: During the French & Indian War, high demand for fur trade required new innovations in transport and control of the waterways. Whoever controlled the waterways and the trade had influence on the economy and markets.

Core Idea: To better understand the historical perspective, one must consider historical context.

Performance Expectations: 6.1.12.HistoryUP.2.a: Using primary sources, describe the perspectives of African Americans, Native Americans, and women during the American Revolution and assess the contributions of each group on the outcome of the war.

Programs that meet these Performance Expectations: Fighting for My Freedom, Patriots in Petticoats, Guided Gallery Tour, All Is Threatened and Endangered: New Jersey in the French & Indian War

How we meet this: Fighting for My Freedom: An African American soldier shares his experience of fighting for personal and national freedom during the American Revolution.

How we meet this: Patriots in Petticoats: Learn about the lives of real women from the Revolutionary era and their contributions both at home and on the battlefield.

How we meet this: Guided Gallery Tour/All Is Threatened: Provides an understanding of events just two decades prior to the Revolution. Examines the contributions and conflicts Lenape/Delaware people in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania.

Guided Gallery Tours of our current exhibit
All Is Threatened and Endangered:
New Jersey and the French & Indian War
are made possible in part through generous grants by:
The Society for the Colonial Wars in the State of New Jersey
The New Jersey Historical Commission
The Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission

Funding for the educational programming in the medical room is provided in part through a generous grant by:
Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

To book a tour,
call 609-396-1776 or email groups@barracks.org
101 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 | www.barracks.org

The Old Barracks Museum strives to cover all of these Performance Expectations during group tour programs, but sometimes tours must be altered due to time constraints and unforeseen circumstances.

This information has been designed to supplement programs at the Old Barracks Museum, Trenton, NJ, and is not intended for any other use.