

Lesson 1: Introducing your Students to Questing

Take Your Students on a Quest

Ideally, before you initiate making a Quest, you should take students on a Quest to give them a sense of: (a) what a Quest is; and (b) the two fundamental types of clues, “clues that teach” and “clues that move” visitors from one site to another.

In the best case, you’d take a field trip and embark on one of the following 3 Quests.

The Fearless Fighters Quest, Woodstock, VT
Created by: Woodstock Elementary School 4th Grade

Hartford Civil War Quest, Hartford Village, VT
Created by: Upper Valley teachers & Hartford Middle School students

The West Cemetery Civil War Quest, Keene, NH
Created by: Antioch New England Graduate students

If that is not possible, copy the sample Quest (pgs.12 – 14) and have students read through this Quest as they embark on the **VIRTUAL QUEST** available at:
<http://www.vitalcommunities.org/ValleyQuest/cwquest>

As you move through the Quest, ask students to consider which clues are “moving” and which clues are “teaching.” Also, at the teaching clues invite them to consider “**How do they know this?**” and discuss the kinds of resources that might help one learn about life 150 years ago.

At the end of the Quest, encourage students to discuss the quality of the Quest: Was it successful in getting them from place to place? Was the information they learned interesting and worthwhile? Was the experience fun?

Most important is for students to understand the key components of a Quest. If they have a clear sense of the goal when they start the unit, students will take on the activities with a greater sense of clarity and purpose.

If you use the **VIRTUAL QUEST**, you might follow up by showing them the **ANNOTATED QUEST**, so they see the relationship between the clues and the resources. This available at:
<http://www.vitalcommunities.org/ValleyQuest/cwquest>

Call or email the Vital Communities office for guidance in arranging a Valley Quest field trip: (802)-291-9100 ext 102 or steve@vitalcommunities.org.

Civil War Quest

Hartford, Vermont

To get there: This adventure takes place at the Hartford Cemetery. Travel north or south on Route 5 to Route 14. Next, head west on Route 14 - soon, you'll see I-91 up above you. The Hartford Cemetery is located just before (or east) of the Interstate. Park in the lot by the fence.

Setting: Hartford, Vermont, winter 1860. The fields have been put to sleep, and in November President Lincoln is elected under the banner, "We cannot be a nation divided, half slave and half free." As southern states secede, President Lincoln calls for 75,000 troops. This Quest begins at the stone of Allen Gilson, one of the first to answer the call.

Pass one gate, pass two,
Turn where the drive waits for you.
Allen P. Gilson, you will see
Who rode in the First Regiment Cavalry.
The last letter of this soldier's name:

1

Between the two trees, hydrangeas are these
On through two Hazens, move on if you please
On four stones shaped like a steeple
You will find some Fenno people
Of the plants which decorate this plot
Which of them are native, which are not?
Look left, a tall trio you will see
One served in the war, revered was he.
The last letter of this veteran's last name:

6

Leave this old tomb that's marked with a shield—
At Ed Blaisdell's stone a rusty star feel.
Ed Blaisdell enlisted at age 24
And went down to Washington ready for war.
His company built strong fortifications
Compared to bloodshed, this was vacation!
When called to Virginia, that duty ended.
On company H, the Union depended.
Ed's second wife survived him by almost 4 years.
Put the 3rd letter of her first name here:

5

Beside Amanda Blaisdell lies Ed's comrade Charles
Who fought for the Union in the 11th Vermont Vols.
Tired, hungry and scared, they marched into battle
Those shots whizzing by made their weary bones rattle.
One private's canteen was shot from his side—

That bullet just missed him, but not very wide!
Sweet letters from home brought them news and concern
That to vices like drinking and gambling they'd turn.
But these sinful temptations kept cold fear at bay
As the fiddler, the drummer and the piper would play.

What's the 4th letter of Mr. Davis' first name? _____
9

East of Mr. Davis, many spires you will see.
Seek the one that's shrouded in stone drapery.
With many tall shapes reaching up toward the sky
Nature's art as a frame will sure catch your eye
Under shade and shelter for the birds and the bees
Greet the Williamson family and family of trees.
Breathe deep with your noses and taste the sweet smell
What type of trees are these, can you tell?

What is the first letter of Berkley, Maude, Anna and Mira's last name? _____
4

Turn round and walk past a family of Boyd
On past the Brooks family returned to the void.
Look at two stones and you'll see on the right
Civil War Soldier Orin Watkins, his name barely in sight.

Last letter of Orin's last name: _____
7

Further east; pass the cloth on the obelisk top.
There are some figures on the ground where you should stop.
Marguerite did not serve in the Civil War
But fought for freedom in the Marine Corps.

The 5th letter of this vets' first name is? _____
10

Now, look around for a log that's carved out of stone
Private Pinney survived, from the war he came home.

The letter between Private Pinney's middle initial and his last name: _____
2

Toward the rusty stone walk, but stop on your way
To linger with Sylvia, but don't read all day.

What is the 1st letter of Sylvia's 2nd husband's 1st name? _____
3

Take twenty steps east, passing two B's.
Stop and ponder the weeping trees.

The 8th letter of Emily's husband's first name: _____
8

Off to the left, a small column you'll spy.
Go discover where Nash's old dry bones lie.

The 3rd letter of the organisms growing on this stone: _____
11

Albin Nash signed up for the Mass Volunteers
 Not knowing his regiment would fight far from here.
 To Louisiana went all the men
 To wonder if they would see New England again.
 They missed the fresh air and cool summer water
 For summer down south got hotter and hotter.
 That trip, eleven died from wounds and from shot
 But one hundred and one from diseases they got.
 While facing old Albin (that's East don't you know)
 Take 10 skips forward then right you will go.
 Move past all the tablets of Baileys and Browns

At left are the Allens all close to the ground.
 Leave SJ behind you and study the land
 The tallest of markers a nice pinkish tan
 There is but one other its color and height
 It blends with the trees and it's up to the right
 Go see Mr. Lyman and learn what he's done
 At Petersburg, Ed last laid down his gun
 If you take a moment to look round the plot
 A stone for each story, their own special spot
All except Julia's a letter they share
Read then and you'll find it, you're answer's right there: _____

12

Retreat to Gilson, who lies in the west,
 Head north to discover what's next on your Quest.
 Past the stone wall, and over your shoulder
 March up to salute the old granite soldier.
 Place your letters in order and see
 The end of this Veterans' Day mystery.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12

As you complete your Quest, please consider this:

Population of Vermont in 1860 = 315,098 Soldiers who volunteered to fight = 34,238
 Number who died = 5,224 Civil War veterans buried in the Hartford cemetery = 100