

Look closely at the fences and draw what they look like. Which type of fence will you make at home?

Split Rail	Wattle
Post and Rail	Hurdle
Ha-Ha wall	Hedge

Homeschool Day Field Guide

How to use this guide:

This Field Guide will help you navigate Homeschool Day at Mount Vernon. For each stop on the farm you'll find a question to answer. On the last page is an activity to complete as you explore the rest of the Estate.

Special Homeschool Day Activities

9:30am—4pm Demonstrations on The Farm

9:30am, 10:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm Music of the Revolution on the Bowling Green

Find the answers to these questions while you explore:

Stop A: Pole Shelter How many acres of land did George Washington own in 1799?	Stop B: Bake Oven How long did it take for an oven to get hot enough to bake bread?	Stop C: Fishing How many fish did the enslaved workers catch from the river each season?
Stop D: Compost Why do you think compost is important?	Stop E: Textiles How many feet of thread does it take to make one square yard of fabric?	Stop F: 16 Sided Barn Name one reason why wheat was better than tobacco.
Stop G: Enslaved Foodways What 2 food items did the enslaved workers receive as rations? 1. _____ 2. _____	Stop H: Enslaved Family Cabin How far did Silla’s husband Joe have to walk to see his family?	Bonus: Fifer How are sounds used to communicate today? Hint: Think about sounds you hear every day - sirens, car horn, etc.



Homeschool Day Explorer's Map

A Mansion Tour Entry

1 Texas Gate/Main Entrance

2 Ford Orientation Center

4 Bowling Green Gate

5 Bowling Green

Music of the Revolution

9:30am; 10:30am; 11:30am; 1:30pm

7 Upper Garden

9 Greenhouse

11 Slave Quarters: Women

12 Shoemaker's Shop

13 Stove Room

14 Slave Quarters: Men

15 Blacksmith Shop

18 Spinning House

19 Botanical Garden

20 Salt House

22 Servants' Hall

23 Mansion Circle/Specialty Tours

24 Mansion

25 Kitchen

26 Storehouse & Clerk's Quarters

27 Necessary

28 Smokehouse

29 Wash House

30 Coach House

31 Stable

32 Dung Repository

33 Ice House

34 Lower Garden

35 Paddock

36 Fruit Garden and Nursery

37 Old Tomb

38 Washington Tomb

39 Slave Memorial & Cemetery

40 Wharf

44 Forest Trail

45 12-Acre Field

46 Donald W. Reynolds Museum & Education Center

Homeschool Day at The Farm

Demonstrations Available from

9:30am—4pm

A Farming Overview

B Bake Oven (available until 2pm)

C Fishing

D Fencing & Compost

E Textiles

F 16-Sided Barn

G Enslaved Foodways

H Enslaved Family Cabin

Shuttle service is available for guests with mobility issues at a reduced ridership capacity. Shuttle stops are by #46 and station G on the Farm.

Crop Rotation schedule used by George Washington at Mount Vernon







George Washington was a progressive farmer who experimented with growing over 60 different crops at Mount Vernon. He was one of the first farmers to realize that tobacco depleted the soil and in the mid-1760s, he switched to wheat as his primary cash crop. Washington was not the first farmer to use crop rotation, but he was one of the first to develop and use a plan of more than 3 years.

Fill in the crop rotation schedule below using the following guidelines:

- Only “Clover or Grass” may be planted more than 2 years in a row.
- “Corn and Potatoes” can never be planted after “Wheat”.
- “Buckwheat for Manure” can only be planted in 1 field every year.
- “Wheat” must be planted in 2 fields every year.

Number of Fields	1793	1794	1795	1796	1797	1798	1799
3	Corn and Potatoes	Wheat	Buckwheat for Manure	Wheat	Clover or Grass	Clover or Grass	Clover or Grass
4	Clover or Grass	Corn and Potatoes	Wheat	Buckwheat for Manure	Wheat	Clover or Grass	Clover or Grass
5	Clover or Grass						
6	Clover or Grass						
7	Wheat						
1	Buckwheat for Manure						
2	Wheat						

Fences at Mount Vernon

	Spilt rail fences were movable and used primarily around fields. Their flexibility allowed them to be laid around trees and other obstacles, a tremendous advantage.
	Wattle fencing was tightly woven to pen poultry, and to protect them from foxes and other predators.
	Post and rail fences were used to permanently mark boundary lines and keep large animals like horses in specific fields.
	Hurdle fences were small and portable, and used primarily to keep sheep in an area for grazing. The manure they left behind was valuable fertilizer.
	Hedges are “live” fences which might be plants such as honey locust, willows, thorns, or other types of shrubs.
	Ha-ha walls were not technically fences, but functioned similarly. A ha-ha wall is a sunken wall with a lower level of ground the side where animals grazed.

Make Your Own Fence

Just like today, fences were used for different purposes in the 18th century and were made of different materials. Some fences were used to keep animals out of gardens or to keep livestock safely penned. Fences had different elements, such as how they were built or the materials they used, to serve their purpose.

You can make your own model fence at home by using supplies you have available. Before you get started, think about what you plan to make.

- What do you need a fence for? Maybe a pet or a garden? Or maybe a fictional character?
- Did you see any fences at Mount Vernon that you’ll use in your model?
- What elements of those fences would make them effective for your project?

Once you think through those questions, begin gathering your supplies. Here are examples of materials you can use: sticks from outside, toothpicks and marshmallows, popsicle sticks, modeling clay, or Legos.

Start building your model fence. You can build a fence that is like one you saw at Mount Vernon, combine elements from different fences that you saw, or invent a new type of fence!