Learning Barge Community History Lesson Plan

Industry and Machines – There is history here!

Objective:
To teach students about the industrial history of Hampton Roads – focusing more on Norfolk and Portsmouth

Introduction:
Divide students into four groups and allow them to explore the model machines. Ask them to look at their surroundings – can they find any evidence of machines being used around them?

Activity:
1) Ask the students to list five questions that they would ask someone whom they would be interviewing. (If desired, choose a specific recent event from which they should generate questions – can tie into current events studies)
Pair students and allow each student to ask questions and record answers.
Ask students if they discovered anything new about each other. Were there any significant differences in recounting current events? How is this significant when considering oral history interviews?

2) Ask students to gather in groups by assignment from Travel, Enterprise, and Entertainment
Allow them to read the material and review the images. Answer questions collectively or on individual hand outs:
How does the Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Newport News Company describe your location?
What different types of material are within your section? (are there ads? Resorts? Descriptions?)
Would you describe your home and Hampton Roads the same way?
Imagine why this book would have been published.

Conclusion:
Describe to students the development of industry and infrastructure in Norfolk and Portsmouth as the students read answers to the handout questions.
Ask students to interview a family member and create a report.