Manchester Historic Association presents

___________

Millyard Museum fun book

Word Search

h g a m o s k e a g s q h h s
e z e k i e l s t r a w b h q
n e h e m i a h b e a n t p s
h n o g e c f u c h b w v k t
m s p q j i v a b e n a k i r
i j o h n s t a r k d n n u i
l l v e x c f s x r i w o k
l t o d e r r y f i e l d d e
y e o d s o j w x w x h x c d
a x m c e l m s t r e e t a d
r t m a n u f a c t u r i n g
d i s z g d a r o z c t h a m
d l w s c y m x t h g f o l q
i e l o t t b p e n s t o c k
l c b u e c f z x w b t j q g

manufacturing
Elm street
Abenaki
canal

Nehemiah Bean
Amoskeag
millyard
loom

Ezekiel Straw
Derryfield
textile

John Stark
penstock
strike

Mill yard Museum * 200 Bedford Street * Manchester, NH
www.manchesterhistoric.org
603.622.7531
Hello there,
I am General John Stark (I'm kind of a big deal in New Hampshire). I am going to be your tour guide through the Millyard Museum. Along the way, we will learn about one of the coolest cities in the world... Manchester!

Let's start from the beginning...

The first inhabitants
People first arrived in the Manchester area about 11,000 years ago, after the last ice age ended. Native campsites along the Merrimack River became well established. Many tribes of Native people inhabited the region, including the Penacook, Algonquin, and Abenaki Indians.

Many tribes were drawn to this area because of the river. The waterfalls in this area of the Merrimack River were named "Amoskeag" which means place of many fish. The river was not only used for water and transportation, it was a major food source. Many varieties of fish were found here and they supplied a very large number of native people with a sustainable, constant supply of food. Water equalled survival, which is not very different from today.

Word Scramble
Unscramble the letters to discover what types of fish the native people fished for in the Amoskeag Falls

1. myplera  lee
2. rpac
3. uortt
4. oslamn
5. gmtaoruhel sabs

Answers: 1. lamprey 2. carp 3. trout 4. salmon 5. largemouth bass
It's Gen. John Stark again!
Now on to a different period in Manchester's history, a time where people began to branch out and rely on skills they had learned in their native countries... can you imagine most of Manchester being farm land?

**Early European Settlers**

The story of the city of Manchester started in the 1720s when the first European settlers came to the area. They called this land Derryfield. They brought with them the knowledge of how to farm, fish and hunt. Local families also had other trades, including barrel making (coopers), chair making (turners), blacksmithing and weaving. Soldiering was sometimes an option, especially during the French & Indian War in the 1750s. One such soldier was John Stark. John Stark was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire, in 1728. John Stark and his three brothers were officers in the famous Rogers’ Rangers which was a unit of the British army. John inherited his father’s farm, and established a sawmill on the Merrimack River, and went on to become New Hampshire’s greatest hero of the Revolutionary War. After the war, Stark retired to his Derryfield home with his wife Molly Stark, enjoying the town and home he loved. He was active in local business, hosting town meetings at his house and helping to build the local schoolhouse.

**Scavenger Hunt**

Find the artifacts that these pictures came from. Use the information panels to learn more about the objects and their role in early Manchester settlement.

Most of the artifacts belonged to one very special man. Can you guess who?
Can you help the goods travel the canals and safely arrive in Boston?

Now I’d like to talk about a good friend of mine – one whose innovations made it possible for big industry to come to Manchester.

Samuel Blodget
Samuel Blodget was very interested in industry and progress. After a trip to Manchester, England, he became inspired by the Industrial Revolution already taking place there. He was interested in improvements in transportation, and especially canals. He had a vision that he could build a canal to bypass the Amoskeag Falls, which – along with other canals on the river, would then allow river traffic to go all the way from Concord, New Hampshire to Boston. This was the great era of canal boating on the Merrimack River. Later the Blodget Canal was lengthened and improved, becoming a power canal for the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. After his death, Derryfield’s name was changed to Manchester to honor Samuel Blodget’s vision.

General John Stark
Samuel Blodget
Water Power in the Mills

What powered the mills of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company?
The major source of power for many years was the water of the Merrimack River. The drop in the river at Amoskeag Falls would cause the water to fall approximately 54 total feet. The pressure and weight of all this moving falling water equaled about 36,000 horsepower of energy.

Here, at Amoskeag Mill No. 3, the rushing water from the Upper Canal flowed through an underground “penstock” and fell down into a horizontal water “turbine” beneath the floor. This acted like the earlier water wheels that powered the saw and grist mills. The spinning turbine, through a series of gears, transferred this energy to shafts that ran up through the factory floors, then through gears to leather belts that operated the machinery. The water continued flowing under the building and downhill, into the Lower Canal and eventually back into the river.

Waterpower was originally the only source of power in the mill yard.

Can you put the pictures in order from first to last in order to create power for the mills?

1. Water spinning the turbine
2. Water exits back to river
3. Water fills up the penstocks and drops down
4. Water is diverted to the canals
5. Turbine spins the belts, powering all the looms
6. Water flowing down the Merrimack River

WOW!!!! That’s one big wheel! Did you know the falls produced over 36,000 horsepower worth of energy...where do you think they put all those horses?
Mill Workers

Many thousands of people worked at the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company.

At one time, Amoskeag employed over 17,000 workers -- well over half of the city's working people. Most of the workers were immigrants. Many were young women, who left their homes on farms to come work in the mills.

Mill Workers

Complete the crossword below. Use the text panels in the museum to figure out the clues.

Across

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| 1. The small wooden device used to weave yarn back and forth on the loom. | 2. Men, women and | 3. All worked in the | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. 
| Amoskeag | textiles | loom | Mattie | children | Millgirls | Merrimack | shuttle |

Europe dangerous

Down

1. The number one item produced in the Manchester mills was
2. Many immigrant workers came from
3. Young women who left home to work in the Mills were often called
4. Working in the mills was a _________job.

One Awesome Girl

Mattie Knight was a factory worker from a very young age. Mattie saw that everything in the mills did not always run smoothly. Steel-tipped wooden shuttles would occasionally fly off their looms. At the age of 12, she invented a safety device to protect workers from these shuttles that fed string to the looms. She saved a lot of lives with this invention. Among lots of other things, Mattie invented a machine for making square bottom paper bags. In her lifetime, she was responsible for over 80 patented devices. Nearly all Margaret Knight’s inventions were improvements for factory machines.
Ezekiel plans a city

Manchester was a planned city. This was quite unusual for New England. The Amoskeag investors envisioned a city that would support its manufacturing operations, and would also be handsome, humane and livable. The plan was to create a vibrant community – Manchester would be a good place in which to work and live. In 1838, Amoskeag had one of its young engineers, 19-year old Ezekiel Straw, lay out the downtown area. Straw did this on a neat grid system, where the new wide main street – called Elm Street -- would be parallel to the new millyard.

Amoskeag built its worker's housing on the streets above the millyard, between the mills and the main street. The new town attracted energetic entrepreneurs and skilled craftsmen. Retail development was encouraged, and a central business district quickly rose up in the downtown area close to the new mills. Just as the Amoskeag planners had envisioned, a great industrial center was rising on the banks of the Merrimack River.

What would your city look like? Would you center it around one street like Ezekiel did?
Would you use a grid or let it flow freely?
Design your city in the space on the next page, keeping in mind how people would get from one place to another.
The Fall of an Empire

The end of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company came for many reasons including, southern competition and outdated equipment. Through 1920 Manchester was known as the "strikeless city" because Amoskeag worked very hard to instill loyalty among its workforce. Despite its best efforts, there were several strikes from 1919-1934, some were successful and some were not. In September, 1935 the mills shut down. On December 24, the company declared bankruptcy. In the spring of 1936, there was a great flood that made reorganizing difficult.

The closing of the Amoskeag mills in 1935 was a major blow to the city. However, local business leaders had great success attracting small industries to the millyard. By the 1950s, over 125 small businesses were operating out of the millyard, thanks to the efforts of Amoskeag Industries.

Sometimes it takes drastic measures to make change happen. The mill workers were fighting for what they thought was fair. In the end, a combination of striking, southern competition and too few mechanical updates sent Amoskeag into bankruptcy.

The close of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company was not the end for Manchester. Rather, it was just the beginning. Manchester is a city that thrives on adversity, accepts change, and moves forward. Every time it seems to get knocked down, it gets back up better than before. After the mills closed in 1935, private citizens worked together to bring life back to a struggling city. They reinvented themselves. Manchester has gone through highs and lows but has always come out on top. This ability to survive and thrive is a testament to the the people who love Manchester and call it home, both now and in the past.
Time to think....

Look at the map of downtown Manchester. What do you think has changed from the early mill days? What do you think has stayed the same? What buildings and landmarks can you find that give clues to the past?

What would you have liked about Manchester back then? What do you like about Manchester today?

What was your favorite part of the museum today?