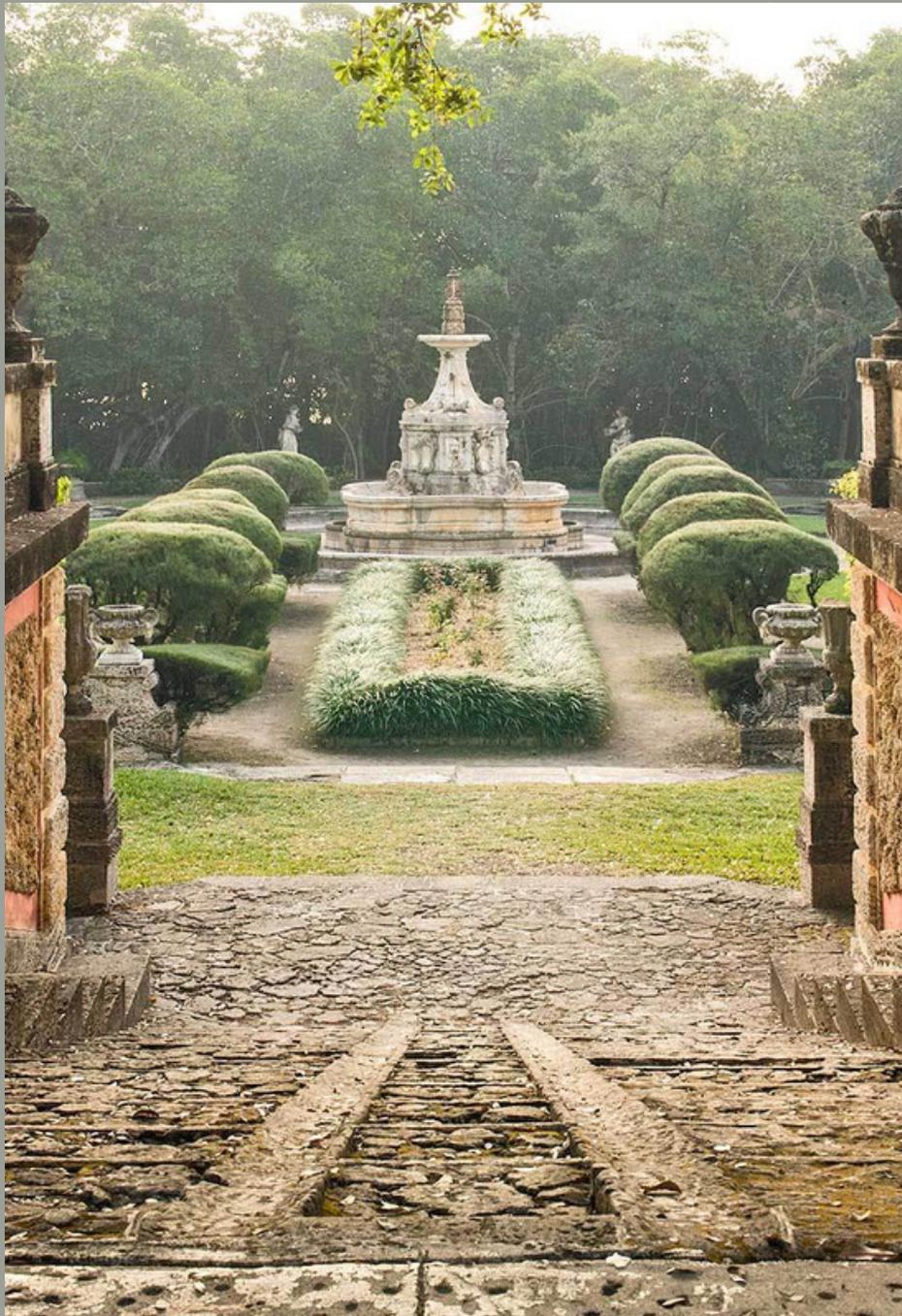


GIRL SCOUT GUIDE

PRESERVING OUR PAST

learn about your history!





Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida

ACTIVITY OUTLINE

Please read the form and complete the activities required of your age group!

Brownie Level

Read about the vocabulary definitions, then flip through the booklet to page 4. There, read about what historical preservation means. After, answer some questions about why you think historical preservation is important. Then, look at the list of different historical sites and choose one to research. You can also pair up with a partner or group! Finally, write or draw about why you think it is important to spread the word about historical preservation.

Junior Level

Read about the vocabulary definitions, then flip through the booklet to page 4. There, read about what historical preservation means. After, answer some questions about why you think historical preservation is important. Then, look at the list of different historical sites and choose three you want to read about. Finally, write about why you think it is important to spread the word about historical preservation! You can also pair up with a partner or group to answer the questions and project.

Happy Scouting!



Vocabulary

WORDS TO KNOW!

Here are some vocabulary terms that will be helpful to you when learning about historical preservation.



1. *endeavor*: a journey or an attempt to reach a goal.
2. *conserve*: protect or save from harm or destruction.
3. *destruction*: the act of causing damage, harm or hurt.
4. *historical*: something important to the past.
5. *significance*: having importance or meaning.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION



Historical preservation is an endeavor that seeks to protect and conserve buildings and other objects of historical significance.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS, WHY DO YOU THINK THAT HISTORICAL PRESERVATION IS IMPORTANT?



Preserving historic buildings is important to save our communities' heritage and history. It is also good for the environment, because it reduces the need for new structures and houses. Think of it as recycling a house; reducing the need for new materials, and reusing an existing structure.

A historic site is place (a home, building, park, etc.) associated with an important person or event in history. Additionally, structures can be considered architecturally significant based on their design and/or the architect that created it. Often times, historically significant sites will have a local, state or national marker to identify their importance.

Impact of climate change

Due to the effects of climate change, many of South Florida's historical sites are being threatened. All of the locations on this list are on the water, and an increase in sea levels could be devastating to some. Now more than ever, it is important to visit these locations because they may not be around for much longer. Our local historical sites have faced many challenges in addition to climate change, like the pandemic and drops in funding. With sites like Vizcaya reporting an 85% drop in revenue, it's even more important than ever to draw awareness to these sites and create interest in them.



South Florida History



South Florida is home to a rich history and some beautiful historical treasures. Founded in 1836, Miami-Dade county is the largest county in Florida. It is home to many well known landmarks, such as Vizcaya. It also has some incredible hidden gems, like Merrick House, and places with historical significance, like the Cape Florida Lighthouse. In the next few pages, a few homes/buildings with historical significance will be listed. After reading about them, choose a few that you liked and complete the exercises at the end of the packet.

Vizcaya





Construction started on Vizcaya in 1914, and the structure was completed sometime around 1920. It is on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, an important list of historic buildings and places. It is also a registered U.S. National Historic Landmark. The main house is 45,255 square feet and has 54 rooms. Vizcaya was built and used by James Deering as winter residence. Upon his passing in 1925, he left the estate to his brother's children. In 1952, Miami-Dade county purchased the estate from them. Vizcaya opened to the public as a museum in 1953. Now, it is a popular place for tourists to visit, as well as Miami locals. Many people take their wedding photos against the beautiful backdrop of its impressive gardens. There is also a café!

Interior

Vizcaya was inspired by the villas of the Italian Renaissance and of the Mediterranean. The gardens are one of the main features of the home, with ten acres of Italian landscaping. The villa also has many fresco paintings on the ceilings, in addition to many beautiful statues throughout the home. In the next few slides, you will see photographs of the delightful interiors. They look just as beautiful in real life, and hopefully you will be inspired to visit this South Florida wonder!









Virginia Key Beach



History

The beach on Virginia Key opened to the public on August 1st, 1945. Since the beaches on Miami Beach and elsewhere in Miami were segregated at the time and only available to white citizens, Virginia Key was designated a "colored-only" beach. It always had been a special place for Black residents of Miami, but this new designation meant it was recognized by Miami-Dade county as an official county park. There were cottages, barbecue pits, even a Mini Train ride and a carousel. The park remained a cultural staple through the 50's and 60's, but was later closed in 1982 because of a lack of funds. Movements in the 90's and early 2000's helped re-open the park in February 2008. Now, the park still has many of it's old attractions, and hosts school field trips to educate students about the Miami ecosystem and sea life. There are also sandcastle exhibits!





Deering Estate



History



In 1896, Samuel Richmond built a home for his family on the land that is now the Deering Estate. In 1900, he added to the home and opened it as the Richmond Hotel. It was the first hotel between Coconut Grove and Key West. In 1916, Charles Deering purchased the property. He commissioned local architect Phineas Paist to build a fire-resistant structure to house his artwork as well as his family. In 1922, the Stone House was built. The property remained in the family after Charles Deering's passing in 1972, but was eventually sold to the State of Florida. In 1986, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The home is still in pristine condition. The gardens and land were completed with the help of local botanist, David Fairchild, and are beautiful to walk around and explore.





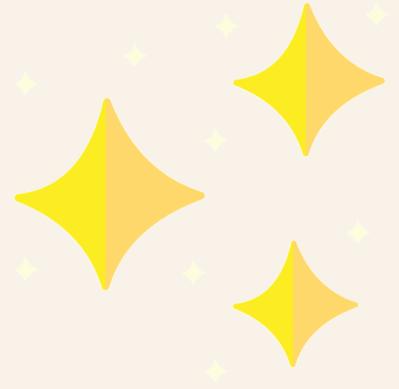




Merrick House



History



Built in 1899, Merrick House was constructed. It was the childhood home of George Merrick, the founder of the city of Coral Gables. Coral rock adorns the sides of the house, which is a lovely compliment to the wraparound porch. It was designed by George's mother when the family first moved to the Miami area. The 3,000 acre grapefruit farm was later developed by George. He sold the land as lots, which later became the city of Coral Gables. In 1973, the property was purchased by the City of Coral Gables. Now, the house is a museum offering exhibits about George Merrick and the early days of Coral Gables.









Cape Florida Lighthouse



History



Before the current lighthouse was built, the Cape Florida light was a stop on the Underground Railroad. There, escaped slaves would gather and board boats that took them to the Bahamas in search of freedom. In 1836, Seminole Native Americans attacked the lighthouse, which was being refurbished by a small group from the Navy. The lighthouse was left in a state of disrepair until 1846, when it was rebuilt.

The lighthouse was restored in 1966, and is now a part of Bill Baggs State Park. It is part of the National Underground Network to Railroad Freedom Trail. It is a popular destination to camp at an explorer- a perfect backdrop for completing an outdoor journey!





The Barnacle



History

The Barnacle was built by Ralph Middleton Munroe in 1891. It is the oldest house in Miami-Dade County still standing in its original location and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Built as a one-story house in 1891, the original structure was placed on stilts in 1908 to make room for the addition of a new first floor below.

Ralph Munroe had a passion for boating and designed his own yachts. Two replicas of his works are moored in the water by the house. There are trails on the property to walk on, a lovely lawn to picnic on, and many birdwatchers come to the park to observe migrations in the spring and fall. There is a non-profit organization called The Barnacle Society, which is dedicated to the preservation of the Barnacle.









Activities



Good job! Now, it's time to use the information you learned to spread the word about historical preservation. You'll have some questions to answer, and projects to choose from. After that, you've earned your patch!

Brownies: Please answer four of the Think Further questions. Then, choose one of the project ideas to complete.

Juniors: Please answer all of the Think Further questions. Then choose two of the project ideas to complete.

After you finish, be sure to share with your troop and troop leader.

Great job, Girl Scout!



Think Further



- 1) Was Vizcaya a vacation home or was it made to be lived in year round?
- 2) Why was the Deering Estate built to be fire-retardant?
- 3) When was the Barnacle built?
- 4) What is the historical significance of the Cape Florida Lighthouse?
- 5) Merrick House was the childhood home of what notable South Florida figure?
- 6) Do some research on Phineas Paist. What other structures was he the architect for, not including Deering Estate?
- 7) When was Virginia Key Beach re-opened?
- 8) How many rooms does Vizcaya have?
- 9) What does it mean for a place to be historically significant?
- 10) Why do you think historical preservation is important?
- 11) What was your favorite place in this packet, and why was it your favorite?

Spread the Word!



*Brownies, please choose one to complete.
Juniors, please choose two.*

*- Make a play about saving an old building.
Feel free to use your imagination! At the end, be sure to
tell the audience about why historical preservation is
important.*

*- Create a presentation about your favorite site
from this list.
Be sure to include pictures!*

*- Visit a historical place in you neighborhood
Tell a story or write something about it after!*

*- Create a poster about historical preservation.
Ask if they can be posted at your school to educate others.
Try to draw and use lots of imagery!*