



SUMTER COUNTY  
MUSEUM



## Lesson Plan: Letters from the Backcountry

Goes with the "Cultural History of Backcountry South Carolina 1750-1850" Tour

**Grade Level:** Adaptable 3-12th

**Length of Lesson:** One 45 minute class

**Lesson Description:** Students will learn about what life was like for people who lived in the Backcountry of South Carolina from 1750-1850. The Carolina Backcountry at the Sumter County Museum is a working homestead that includes a smithy, loom house, settler's house, log cabin, wood shop, gardens, brick oven, outdoor kitchen, smoke house, commissary, privy, and stocks.

**South Carolina State Standards:**

ELA Writing: Standards 3,4,5 and 6

Social Studies: 4-2, 4-5, 7-3, 8-1, 8-2, WG-1, WG-4, WG-8, ECON-1

**Instructional Objectives:** Students will imagine they are a frontier settler living in central South Carolina between 1750-1850. The student will write a letter to their family or friends describing life in South Carolina's frontier.

**Vocabulary:**

Frontier

Backcountry

Settler

Agriculture

**Materials:**

Paper

Pencil with eraser

Envelope and stamp

**Instructional Procedures:**

1. Students will learn about life in the frontier region of South Carolina on a small homestead from 1750-1850.

2. Students will write a letter to their family or friends. Have students display understanding by describing life in the frontier region of South Carolina and pointing out the parts of everyday life that they find the most interesting. Letter should include the 5 parts of a friendly letter: Heading, Greeting, Body, Closing, and Signature, and may include a Post Script.

3. You may wish for students to present their letters in class or display them for others to see.