



Lesson for Podcast 05: Be a Historian!

Lesson Summary: Discover historic artifacts in the rose garden and beyond...

Lesson Description: Historians study the past. In this part of the trek, you will search for three artifacts from the past that are located in the Zilker Rose Garden. Once you find them, draw a picture in your journal and a few facts about each one. When you first looked at these artifacts what did you think they were? How did reading about them change your mind? There are other historic artifacts located at the Zilker Botanical Garden. See you find and record these too. Finding these historic artifacts will help you understand more about the Austin of the past.

Materials Needed:

I-pod, loaded with Zilker Trek and headphones
Journal
Colored Pencils

Activity Discussion:

Some people have called the Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin's attic. This is because many historical artifacts that were once located elsewhere in the City have found a new home at the Zilker Botanical Garden. Some historic artifacts include:

The cupola: This cupola once graced the top of the Bickler School at East Avenue (now IH 35) and 11th Street. Built in 1894, the Bickler School was one of the first public schools in Austin. In 1947 this school became the administrative offices for the Austin Independent School District. When the building was razed in 1968, the cupola was donated to the City of Austin. We think that they made pretty good use of it. Do you?

The Congress Avenue footbridge: Footbridges were used on Congress Avenue before it was paved. The bridges allowed pedestrians to cross from the wooden walkways and over the drainage ditches that ran along Congress Avenue.

The Butler arch: This window arch is the only reminder of brick maker, Michael Butler's once grand home. The house, built in 1887, was located at the northwest corner of 11th and Guadalupe Streets, but was razed in 1971. Today the remaining arch is an odd, though distinctive reminder of the beautiful homes that were once plentiful in downtown Austin. If you want, visit the former location of this home and see what is there today.

Zilker Trek Lesson Plan

Other artifacts that can be found around the garden include:

Historic farm equipment, an antique light post, an old schoolhouse and a pioneer cabin.

Additional Resources:

If you like Austin history and want to learn more about it, you can go to any Austin public library location and borrow the DVD, *Austin Past and Present*. This interactive history of the City of Austin is also available to view at the library on existing computer stations.

The **Austin History Center** website has many interesting on-line exhibits

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/ahc/>

Notes:

Don't forget to upload your images and scans of your journal pages to our on-line gallery.