



Created by: Carol Teverbaugh, Possum School

Grade level: 4

Primary Source Citation: *Collins School* in Greene County, Ohio, restored one-room school.

These questions were used following a field trip to the Collins School in Xenia. Collins neighborhood children in first through eighth grade were educated in the present red brick building until 1944, when decreased enrollment forced Xenia Township to close the school. The school property was purchased in 1982 and restoration of the vandalized and deteriorated schoolhouse was begun. For photos of the Collins School, visit <http://collinsschool.org>. The Ohio Historical Society erected a historical marker at the site (See image below.).

The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description


- 1 List as many details as possible about what you saw at the Collins School.
- 2 What materials were used to build the interior and exterior of the school?
- 3 How many stars are on the flag at the front of the room?

Level II: Interpretation

- 1 Why did students of the Collins School write most of their lessons on slate rather than on paper?
- 2 Explain why the wooden desks are arranged from small to large and why they are bolted to the floor?

Level III: Analysis

- 1 Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast a typical school day for a fourth grader today and a typical school day for a student attending the Collins School in 1895.
- 2 What connection can you make between the Collins School experience and the Laura Ingalls Wilder book *Farmer Boy*?
- 3 Write a story about a fictional character that attended the Collins School. Include historical facts that you learned on the field trip. Be sure your story has characters, a setting, a major conflict, and a resolution.



COLLINS SCHOOL
EST. CIRCA 1875
RESTORED BY
VIRGIL & HELEN BRYSON BRANTLEY
REDEDICATED FOR EDUCATION
AUGUST 30, 1986
GIVEN BY THEIR FAMILY