

# The Water Education Project

## School Group Programs

These field experiences are sponsored by the **New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation at the Old Croton Aqueduct State Park**. They can be tailored to fit the needs of individual groups.

### **Water for Gotham: Urban Needs & Rural Resources**

Designed for 2nd graders (NYS Social Studies Inquiry Topic 2.1)

What makes a community urban, rural, or suburban? How do these communities rely on each other? This program explores the history of how the growing port of New York tapped into the natural resources of the surrounding countryside. Today, why do urban and rural communities still rely on each other for survival?

**Storytellers spin tales** of catastrophic epidemics in New York City, the battle to acquire land from angry farmers, and the extraordinary effort to blast and dig through 41 miles of remote hillsides... all to deliver water to a growing and thirsty city. Students use **hands-on puzzles** to learn how the system works. Then they descend into the actual brick tunnel and hear more amazing stories of the men, women, and animals who put it all together.



### **Blood, Sweat & Tears: Immigrant Labor & The Croton System**

Designed for 4th graders (NYS Social Studies Inquiry Topic 4.6, 4.7)

What were some unintended consequences of industrialization? What was life like for immigrant workers who helped to build New York's water supply infrastructure throughout the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century?

**Teams of student history detectives** roam from room to room at the restored Keeper's House, finding new clues as they go. The nooks and crannies of the old Keepers House serve as rooms in a real-life game of Clue. Detective teams must study primary sources to piece together the story of the Great Strike of 1900 when Italian stone workers rallied in support of the 8-hour-day at the New Croton Dam.

Students visit both the Keeper's House and the New Croton Dam in Croton-on-Hudson, NY.

### **Muddy Water: Water & Social Justice**

Designed for 7th graders (Grade 7 ELA Module 4B, Unit 1, Lesson 1)

What are some historic and contemporary debates about *water* in the United States? How have activists played a role in these debates?

**Students analyze protest songs** and political cartoons. They will discover a range of perspectives on events related to issues such as water pollution, failing water infrastructure, the construction of reservoirs & dams, hydro-fracking, the bottled water industry, land use near rivers and aquifers, and the privatization of water. This program can be offered at schools or at the Keeper's House in Dobbs Ferry. It includes a guided walk on the Old Croton Aqueduct trail.



