

INTRODUCTION

Save Our History is The History Channel's award-winning national campaign dedicated to historic preservation and history education. As part of the *Save Our History* campaign, The History Channel produces a documentary, *America's Most Endangered*, based on a list developed annually by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The documentary focuses attention on The National Trust's quest to save and preserve the eleven most endangered historical places in the United States, places of historical significance that face neglect, decay, and ruin. By drawing attention to the plight of these historic sites, The National Trust seeks to raise the public's awareness about the importance of historic preservation. The 2002 list includes a variety of sites illustrating the different types of threats that historic places face. The History Channel encourages you to join the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and to learn how you can help preserve the past to enrich the future.

The sites on the 2002 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places featured in this documentary are:

Chesapeake Bay Skipjack Fleet, Maryland • Hackensack Water Works, Oradell, New Jersey • Pompey's Pillar, Yellowstone County, Montana • Historic Bridges of Indiana, Statewide • St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D.C. • Rosenwald Schools, Southern United States • Kw'st'an Sacred Sites at Indian Pass, Imperial County, California • Missouri River Valley Cultural and Sacred Sites, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota • Gold Dome Bank, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma • Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, Minnesota • Teardowns in Historic Neighborhoods, Nationwide

Visit the National Trust for Historic Preservation online at www.nthp.org/11Most to find out more about each of these endangered sites.

CURRICULUM LINKS

America's Most Endangered is suitable for middle school and high school students in United States history, social studies, environmental sciences, and writing classes.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to define preservation and explain the importance of preserving historical places. Students will be able to identify the threats facing eleven endangered historical sites in the United States. Students will determine strategies to protect these sites.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

The study guide for *America's Most Endangered* fulfills the following National Standards for History as developed by the National Center for History in the Schools: Historical Thinking Standards 2, 3, 4, and 5 for United States History (Eras 4–10).





Credit: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

SAVE OUR HISTORY

AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED

TEACHER'S GUIDE

PREVIEWING ACTIVITIES

1. Establish a clear understanding of “preservation.” Students should look up “preservation” in a dictionary. What does “historic preservation” mean? Why should we care about old buildings and neighborhoods? What would we lose if everything old were destroyed? What would our communities and cities look like?
2. Have your class identify historic landmarks, sites, neighborhoods, or individual structures that may exist in your region or area. Encourage them to look closely at local buildings that may represent an historic period or display an interesting architectural design.
3. Make sure your students understand the concept of a “threat” to an historic building or site. Most young people are familiar with wild animals that may be “endangered,” or natural environments, such as a rain forest, that may be “threatened.” Why would these words apply to historic places?

VIEWING ACTIVITY

This documentary is based on the list of the eleven most endangered historic places issued by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. While all eleven sites are mentioned, more information is provided for certain locations.

Refer to the organizational chart provided on the following page. Students should fill out the top section of the chart while they view the documentary. The information required to fill in the chart will be provided in the program. Students should complete these rows during the viewing of the program. They should choose at least four of the eleven sites mentioned in the documentary, or more if they have the time. They may also begin to sketch one site of their choice to illustrate. You may choose to have your class begin their sketch of the site they prefer during viewing or afterwards.

The section of the student worksheet marked “Site Research” should be reserved for post-viewing activities.

Distribute copies of the student worksheets to each of your students. Go over each of the different categories of information required by the chart with your class. Remind the class that there are often more than one threat and solution for each site. You may use an example from last year’s list of the eleven most endangered sites to demonstrate the required process, or use a site in your neighborhood.





credit: Water Works Conservancy

SAVE OUR HISTORY

AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED

TEACHER'S GUIDE

POSTVIEWING ACTIVITY

1. Conduct a classroom discussion of the documentary. Appoint a student or students to write the findings of class members on the wall board. Divide the class into small groups or teams. Each team should create a large chart that describes at least four historic places and the threats they face.
2. On the wall board, create two columns. Above the columns, write "Historic Preservation." One column should be the factors in favor of preservation—mark that one "Pro." The other column should be labeled "Con." Have your students contribute their ideas about the pros and cons of historic preservation. In teams or as individuals, have your students create posters about these conflicting issues of historic preservation or posters that present one point of view.
3. Each student should pick out one specific site to research in depth. This research should be organized into bullet points and listed in the "Site Research" section of the student worksheet. The bullet points may be used as topic sentences in an essay or article about historic preservation. For information, your students should visit www.historychannel.com/classroom or the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Web site at www.nthp.org/11most.

VOCABULARY

- endangered** (adj.) in danger, often of extinction or destruction
- historic** (adj.) important or famous in history
- historical** (adj.) of or relating to history
- local** (adj.) of or relating to a particular area or place, such as a region or neighborhood
- preserve** (v.) to protect from injury or danger; to keep in perfect or unchanged form
- threat** (n.) something that is a possible danger



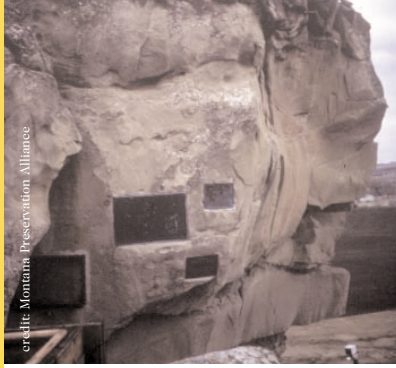
THE HISTORY CHANNEL CLASSROOM PRESENTS

AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED

HistoryChannel.com/classroom

SAVE OUR HISTORY

AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED STUDENT WORKSHEET



NAME: _____ DATE: _____

SITE NAME	LOCATION	IMPORTANCE	THREAT	SOLUTION
1. Chesapeake Bay Skipjack Fleet				
2. Hackensack Water Works				
3. Pompey's Pillar				
4. Historic Bridges of Indiana				
5. St. Elizabeths Hospital				
6. Rosenwald Schools				
7. Kw'st'an Sacred Sites at Indian Pass				
8. Missouri River Valley Cultural and Sacred Sites				
9. Gold Dome Bank				
10. Guthrie Theater				
11. Teardowns in Historic Neighborhoods				



