Elementary History Program Lesson Plan

**Title:** Turning Water into Medicine

**Grades**: 4th

**Length:** 1.5 hours

**Topic:** Development of the bathhouse industry

**Summary**:

"Turning Water into Medicine" is a student-led history program exploring the transformation of Hot Springs from a mountainside of open thermal springs into Bathhouse Row with its highly sophisticated medical practices. The program begins along Bathhouse Row, at the Display Springs to briefly introduce the geology of the water. The bulk of the program takes place inside the historic Fordyce Bathhouse Museum, where students will examine how different parts of the bathhouse functioned by using historical analysis skills incorporating historical documents and images as well as public presentation skills.

**Arkansas State Standards:**

*G.9.4.3* Analyze ways environmental characteristics affect population distribution in Arkansas, the United States, and the world D2.Geo.4.3-5

*H.12.4.1* Create historical narratives using chronological sequences of related events in Arkansas and the United States (e.g., exploration) D2.His.1.3-5

*H.12.4.5* Reference historic places and national parks to guide inquiry about history (e.g., What do the Toltec Mounds tell us about the people who lived there?)

*H.13.4.4* Discuss why historians use a variety of primary and secondary sources D3.2.3-5

**Essential Question:**

How can images and recorded interviews tell us about the ways people have tried to use Hot Springs National Park for healing?

**Objectives**

1. Students will be able to use visual documents to create a chronology of the development of Hot Springs during the 19th and early 19th centuries.
2. Students will be able to discern the benefits and limitations of historical imagery and written documentation for evaluating historical stories
3. Students will be able to analyze historical documents to explain the use and function of historical medical technology on exhibit in the Fordyce Bathhouse.