



## Explore the Setting: View Manassas Through the Eyes of Its Inhabitants

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### Teacher Notes:

*Using documents and images from Manassas website and/or handouts of the Robinson homestead, students will view a panorama of the Robinson homestead, the structures on it and consider its best uses.*

*Students will write descriptive passages about the Robinson's landscape.*

*Students will discuss geography, topography, accessibility, and other issues relevant to the successful use of the land.*

### **Resources:**

- Photo images of Robinson homestead and surrounding area
- Map of Manassas Battlefield showing historic locations of resident families, including the Robinson homestead
- Manassas NPS website about Robinson homestead

### **Questions for discussion:**

1. What are some of the thoughts or words that come to mind when you view Jim Robinson's homestead?
2. Where is Robinson's home located in reference to water, forests, flatlands, main roads (Warrenton Turnpike)
3. What is the climate like?
4. What features of the landscape are most striking?
5. How would each of these features have an impact on the success or failure of the people who live here?
6. Is the land good for agriculture?
7. What kinds of crops would you plant in order to make a profit and feed your family?

## Manassas / Explore the Setting

### View Manassas Through the Eyes of Its Inhabitants (cont'd)

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#### **Questions (cont'd):**

8. Is the land good for industry?
9. What kind of industry would be profitable and relevant to the area?
10. Is the land good for raising animals?
11. What kind of animals would you raise?
12. Is the area profitable for trade or business?
13. Is it a good place to settle down and raise a family?

#### **Writing Activity #1**

If you were thinking of selling Jim Robinson's land in 1840, what features would you highlight to make it desirable to a potential buyer?

Create an advertisement for the Robinson homestead where you highlight the most desirable aspects of living in Manassas.