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Explore Amesbury: The Gateway Arch

Hello kids, families, and friends,

This activity guide is the first, of a series of five, focusing on the people and places of Amesbury, and centering on our historic Millyard. This edition features a visit to Amesbury's Gateway Arch. No doubt, you have passed under this arch many, many times. We hope you'll learn a bit about this ordinary location with an extraordinary history.

We hope that you will *print this brief guide and visit this Amesbury landmark.* Your visit won't take long -- maybe 15 minutes, tops! We also hope that you'll follow up with some of the activity choices we've prepared for you:

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FUN FACTS

Who made the Gateway Arch?

Builders for the Salisbury

Manufacturing Company

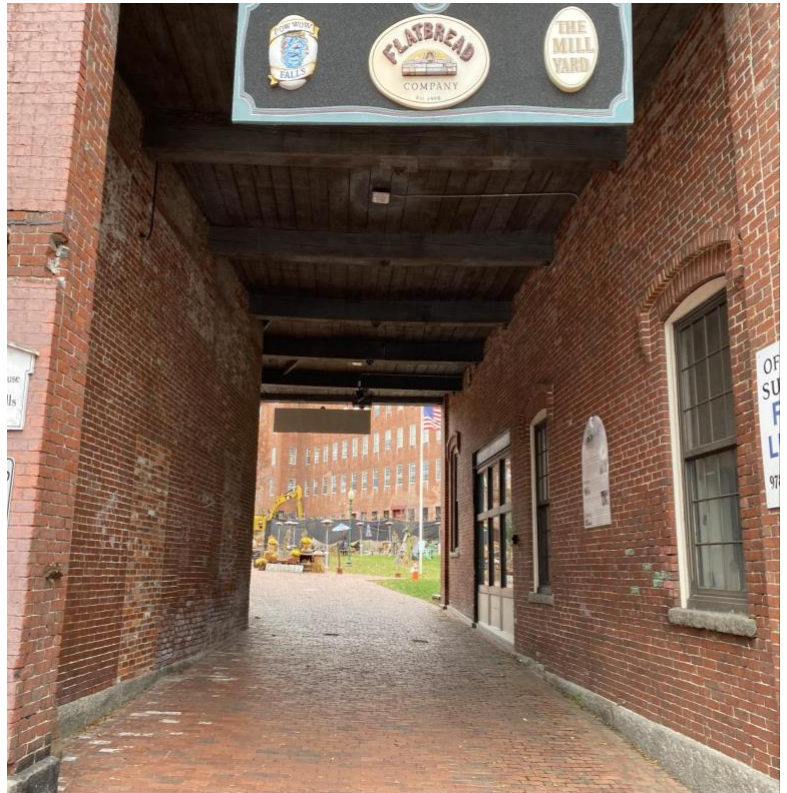**What is this made of?**

Brick and wood

When was this made?

1800's

Where can I find it?

Upper Millyard, Main Street

[map]

Amesbury, MA

Explore Amesbury – The Gateway Arch

VISIT

Today, stand under the Gateway Arch, with the Counting House on your left and your back to Market Street. Now look into the Millyard. What do you see? … Trees, Flatbread Pizza, the brick path, and the Amphitheater. This is a lovely place where we walk, ride bikes, enjoy concerts, or eat with family and friends.

But, if you stood here over 150 years ago, you would have looked at a very different scene. There were many huge brick buildings, side-by-side, lining the Powow River. There was no park-like green space but towering, multi-storied **factories**. These buildings were **textile** mills.

A mill is a factory; it's a set of buildings where products are made by machines.
In the 19th century **innovative** machines changed the way work was done. In the textile mills, **power looms** sped up the process of weaving threads into cloth. These machines replaced the slow hand-work of weavers. Before the textile mills, many local people made their own cloth or traded with others.

Manufacturing brought paid work to many Amesbury-area women, men, and children. At the peak of textile production in the 1870's, nearly 10% of Amesbury's population worked in the mills. Nearly 900 people passed through a gate and under the arch each day.

Mill workers began work at 5 o'clock in the morning. Fourteen hours later their workday ended at 7 o'clock at night. That's a long workday, isn't it? In a **prosperous economy**, workers would get a 15 minute break, twice a day, and they'd walk home for a half-hour lunch. Workers were paid at the Gateway **Counting House** at the end of the week.

VISIT (continued)

As is true with most jobs, there were good times and bad times for companies and their workers. After textile manufacturing ended here in 1912, various **industries**, including automobile body makers, occupied the factory buildings in the Millyard.

In more recent years, this formerly **dense** industrial area was transformed into a lovely **urban** park. Passing through the Gateway Arch in the 21st century, you see only a small portion of the original mill buildings in the Millyard. If you remember the story of the Gateway Arch and Millyard, though, you can imagine Amesbury's proud industrial history in the buildings around you.

LET'S INVESTIGATE

1. **Observe:** Look around. What do you see here that catches your attention? What details stand out to you?

2. **Compare:** Compare Amesbury's Gateway Arch with the arch in the picture from the Great Wall of China, which was built over 1400 years ago.

    You may have noticed that Amesbury's Gateway Arch is flat. This is unlike most other arches which usually are curved. How else are the two arches different?

3. **Evaluate:** In 1849 the millyard was enclosed by a fence and the walls of mill buildings. To get to work, employees entered the millyard through a gate. Why do you think the mill owners erected the gate and enclosed the millyard?

4. **I Wonder:** As workers passed through this gate, what might they have heard? Was it a quiet or a noisy area?

5. **Think Critically**: What is the most important thing someone should know as they pass through this gateway today?

DESIGN TIME

1. Imagine how the gate might have looked over 150 years ago. Sketch your ideas.

2. If a new Millyard **gate** were built today, what might it look like? Sketch your ideas. Include **symbol(s)** to show how the millyard is used today.

3. Notice gates and doors in your home and neighborhood. What different purposes do they serve? Design a gate for your house. Include symbols to show things that your family likes to do.

4. Imagine that you could create a gate to give you privacy in your home. What would your secret area look like? What kind of gate would you like?
   - Draw it, and include designs that symbolize you- or-
   - Build it with popsicle sticks, building blocks, or Legos.
   - Take a selfie and send it to a friend.

GLOSSARY

A **factory** is a building where workers use machines to make things for sale. Many of the same things are made in a short amount of time.

A **textile** is a cloth made by weaving.

Innovative means using a new idea, method, or system.

A **power loom** was a machine that wove threads into cloth. The power loom reduced the need for humans to oversee the weaving process. See [picture](#).

Manufacturing is the making of a large quantity of products, using machines and human labor.

In a **prosperous economy**, individuals and businesses are able to innovate, creating new and better products, services, and ways of doing things.

Counting house is an office or building in which the accounts and money of a company were kept.

An **industry** produces goods or services. In the 18th century US, this included using machines to make goods instead of using hands.

Dense means having parts very close together with little space between.

An **urban** area is a city or town where many people live and work close together.

A **symbol** is an object or picture that represents something else. For example, a flag is a symbol of a country. A logo is a symbol of a company.