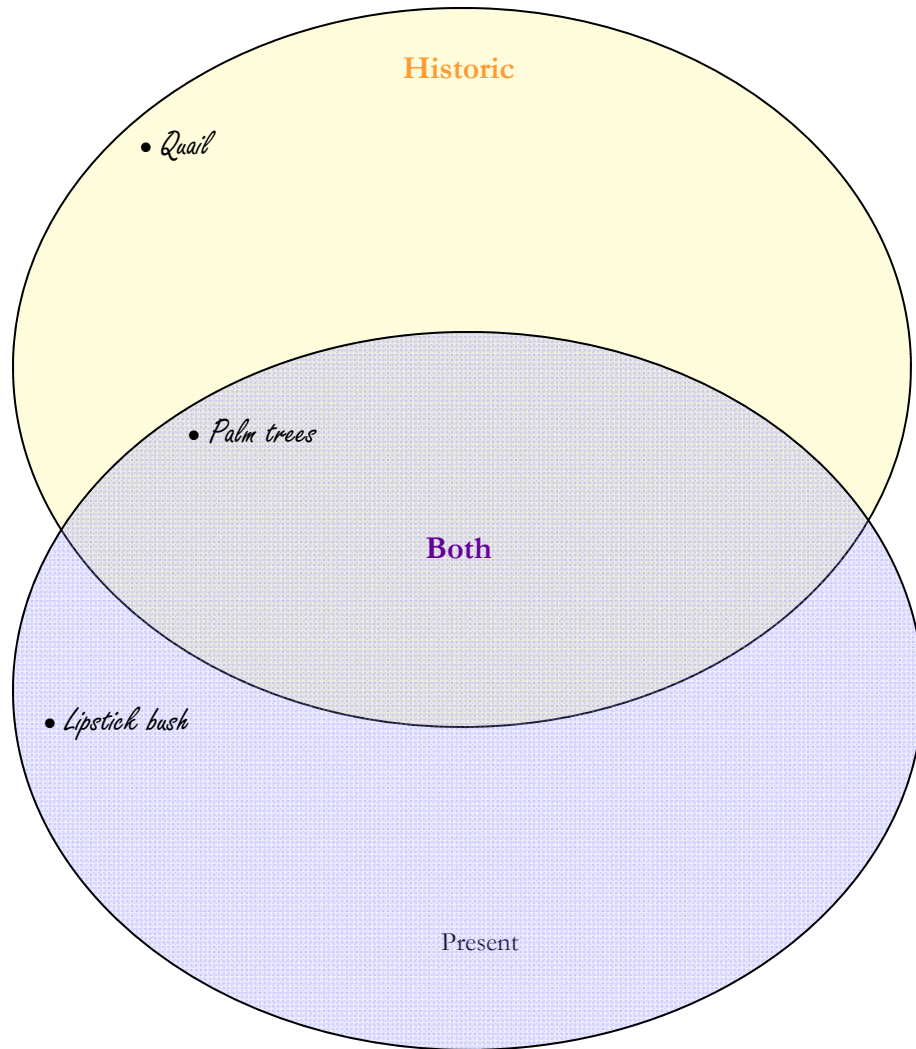


## Learn and Tour questions

During your outdoor tour, listen for facts about DeBary Hall's ecology. Compare the plants and animals that were here historically to those here today. As your guide leads you through the site, fill in the Venn diagram.



The program was developed by the staff of DeBary Hall Historic Site. The site is owned by the State of Florida and managed by Volusia County's Parks, Recreation and Culture Division.



# DEBARY HALL HISTORIC SITE'S Learn and Tour Lessons



## ECOLOGY: From Hunting Retreat to Bird Sanctuary

## About this lesson

In this Learn and Tour activity, you will learn how DeBary Hall was used as a hunting retreat for millionaires in the 19th century and how the land is now a bird sanctuary. You will learn about the many birds that live at DeBary Hall Historic Site and other ecological features.

## Benchmarks and skills

**Grade level:** Grades 2 - 5

**Benchmarks:** Social Studies, Science, and Reading and Language Arts

**Big ideas:** Interdependence, heredity and reproduction, earth structures, reading comprehension, and the practice of science

## Vocabulary list

- *Adapt:* using surroundings and local resources to survive in a specific location
- *Chicks:* baby birds — such as ducks, swans and cranes — that hatch covered with downy feathers
- *Endangered:* species that are at risk of dying out or not reproducing
- *Extinct:* species that no longer exist
- *Invasive species:* plants, such as the air potato vine, that overtake a site and destroy other species
- *Natives:* plants or animals that grow in their natural environments
- *Non-natives:* plants or animals that were brought to another environment and are not natural or appropriate for the new environment
- *Nest box:* birdhouses for birds to lay their eggs in
- *Nestlings:* baby birds — such as doves, woodpeckers and bluebirds — that hatch without feathers
- *Sanctuary:* an area that offers protection or preservation

## Background

In 1870, Frederick deBary came up the St. Johns Rivers on a steamboat to Enterprise, Florida, to enjoy the outdoors, fishing and hunting away from his business life in New York. He enjoyed the area so much that a year later he bought land for a hunting estate of his own. His lands, which grew to over 9,000 acres, contained orange groves, farming areas and hunting preserves. Mr. deBary and his guests enjoyed hunting quail, turkeys, snipe and predator birds. He even had a case custom-made for quail he collected from different areas of the world.

Today, Volusia County manages 10 acres of Mr. deBary's former estate. The area is a bird sanctuary, a place birds where can live and nest safely. Bird-watchers and hikers can see many types of birds on a given day. Some of our feather friends include turkeys, peacocks, ibis, golden hawks, owls, bats and eagles.

## In the classroom

As a class, “adopt” a wild bird. Watch birds that live around your school. Choose one bird to study for a week. Be sure not to disturb your bird so you can understand its natural patterns. Individually, create a bird-watching journal to document observations of your class bird. Some observations to include:

- What type of bird is it?
- What noises does the bird make?
- What does it eat?
- How often does it eat?
- Does it eat at the same time every day?
- What other animals does it interact with?
- Does it have a partner or flock, or is your bird on it own?
- Where does it live?
- What is its nest made of?
- What does it drink from?
- How does your bird interact with other birds?
- Does it have nestlings or chicks to care for?
- What challenges does it face (predators, loss of habitat)?