

## *Learn and Tour questions*

As you tour DeBary Hall, listen for facts about DeBary Hall to answer these questions:

1. Besides the house, where else did deBary have lighting rods?
2. What type of lighting system initially was used in the house?
3. Where is the call box ?
4. How does the elevator operate?
5. List three modern adaptations to DeBary Hall:
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.



This program was developed by the staff of DeBary Hall Historic Site. DeBary Hall Historic 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



## INNOVATION: Gizmos and Gadgets

## About this lesson

In this tour, you will learn about the technologies used at DeBary Hall to make life easy in Florida. The deBarys had to adapt to the warm climate, lightning storms and living away from the city. You will understand how the deBarys used water systems, an elevator, a lightning-protection system, gas-powered lighting and the servants' call system to enhance their life-

## Benchmarks and skills

**Grade level:** 2nd - 5th grade

**Benchmarks:** Social studies, reading and language arts

**Skills:** History inquiry and analysis, growth of Florida, the reading process, communication, informational text

## Vocabulary list

- *Adapt*:: to change something to suit different purposes or environments
- *Convenience*: making things easy, useful or to increase comfort
- *Innovation*: a new invention or way of doing something
- *Technology*: development of devices, machines and techniques to increase productive processes
- *Vital*: extremely important or necessary for life



The call box

## Background

The St. Johns River area was famous for its wild look. While the deBarys may have wanted a break from their busy lives in New York, roughing it was not entirely the plan here. Using *inventions* of their day, they *adapted* to the Florida woods.

Water was *vital*, and they used it in all three forms – as steam in steamboats to travel the St. Johns River, as ice in blocks of ice used to keep food fresh, and as a liquid – using water not only to drink, but also to relax as they built a pool.

They also had lightning rods to protect their house from catching on fire during lightning storms. Inside the home they used a call bell system to alert servants instead of hollering and an elevator to lift luggage trunks upstairs. Another amazing *convenience* was electricity. Many homes in the South did not have gas-powered lighting in their homes, but the deBarys were *innovative* and used a plant to make a compound mixed with water and carbide to light their home.

The deBarys used all these things to make their vacations along the river more enjoyable. During your tour you will see many of these *conveniences* and compare how *technology* has changed over 140 years.

## In the classroom

After exploring the *Gizmos and Gadgets* section of the multi-media presentation, compare rooms in your home to the rooms at DeBary Hall. How have conveniences changed over time? What did the deBarys have in their home that you do not?

1. On a piece of paper make a list of what you have that the deBarys did not and how some items have changed.
2. Pick one item from your list and write a paragraph about what your day would be like without it in your home.
3. After reviewing how important your item is to your life, create a commercial for your item. You can write a jingle, a song, a skit or a theme.
4. Present your commercial to the class, then explain why you chose your item.