

## Firefighting in 19<sup>th</sup> Century America

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### What should my class do before we visit?

1. **Discuss.** Ask your students, “What is a Museum?”
2. **Brainstorm.** They will be visiting a room in the museum that has old fire vehicles. How do they think they will be different than today’s fire engines?
3. **Review.** Learn the vocabulary words listed below.

### Vocabulary

<b>Firefighter</b>	A person whose job is to put out fires.
<b>Carriage</b>	A mode of transportation used before cars were invented.
<b>Bucket Brigade</b>	A method of putting out fires. Two lines are formed between a water source (lake, river, well). One line passes water to the fire and the other line passes empty buckets back to the water source.
<b>Gooseneck Pumper</b>	A 19 <sup>th</sup> century fire fighting vehicle. Fire fighters would raise and lower levers to pump the water through the hose and finally the nozzle.
<b>Steam Pumper</b>	A 19 <sup>th</sup> Century vehicle that used steam instead of manpower to pump the water onto the fire.
<b>Hose Carriage</b>	A wheeled vehicle used to carry long, heavy hoses to the fire.
<b>Trumpet</b>	A metal instrument which fire fighters would shout directions through so that everyone could hear.

### Related Reading

“Firefighters A to Z”	Demarest, Chris L. (Pre-K – 2)
“Hercules”	Gramatky, Hardie (Grades 1 and 2)
“New York’s Bravest”	Osbourne, Mary Pope (Grades 2 and up)

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### What should my class do after the visit?

1. Have students complete the Color Your Own Adventure sheet below.
2. Conduct a sing-along to the song you learned today! Find the lyrics to one of our favorite firefighting songs below, or create your very own!

**Pump Up the Water!**  
**Put Out the Fire!**  
**Pump Up the Water!**  
**Put Out the Fire!**  
**Pump it Up!**  
**Put it Out!**  
**Pump it Up!**  
**Put it Out!**  
**(Repeat)**

3. Discover the photograph below. Can you name the vehicle the firefighter is driving?



*Nott Horse Drawn Steam Pumper, Freeport, N.Y. 1907.*  
Photograph courtesy of the Freeport Historical Society & Museum.



HOW WILL YOU PUT OUT THE FIRE?