



The Bowne House
c.1661

THE BOWNE HOUSE MUSEUM 37-01 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11354 Phone: 718-359-0528
www.bownehouse.org

Thank you for planning a visit to the Bowne House. Bowne House, built by John Bowne by circa 1661 or earlier, is the oldest house in Queens. A critical piece of New York's history, it is included in the Social Studies curriculum. Bowne House is an amalgam of both New World Dutch and English traditions of building, with rare and often unique examples of construction types used by both groups. Continuity of ownership by the Bowne and Parsons families provides an interesting view of changing cultural values and increased prosperity over time. The house was occupied by nine generations of the family, whose offspring have included prominent politicians, businessmen, educators, abolitionists and horticulturalists.

Bowne House is noted for its connection to the principle of religious freedom in America, due to the courageous actions of John Bowne. In 1662, he defied a ban on religious worship imposed by Governor Peter Stuyvesant and permitted Quakers to meet at his home. His arrest and deportation to Holland was followed by his successful plea before the Dutch West India Company. He returned home victorious in 1664, and the principle of freedom of conscience was established in the colony.

Bowne House is a city and state landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a New York State Site of National Significance.

Cost of Tour: \$100 per group. We offer a Title One discount of \$75 per group of 25 students.

Cost for Activity: \$75 per group. Cost for Title One Schools: \$50 per group of 25 students.

Activities: Colonial Toy, Gardening, Herbal Sachet, Archaeological Excavation.

(Total cost per child: \$7, \$5 for Title One.)

Payment: Checks should be made payable to The Bowne House Historical Society and mailed 2 weeks prior to the scheduled tour unless otherwise discussed with management.

Your visit will include:

A guided tour of three rooms and, weather permitting, the garden. Tours last about 1 ½ to 2 hours.

Preparing for Visit:

The following are a few questions to help prepare your group for your visit to the Bowne House.

1. Why did the Dutch settle in New York City?
2. Why did the English settle in Flushing and in Queens?
3. What did Flushing look like in the 17th century, when John Bowne lived there?
4. How did the early settlers build their homes?
5. How did the early settlers heat and light their homes?
6. How did they feed their families?
7. What does Freedom mean to you?
8. Why was religious freedom important to those settling the Americas?
9. How are objects used to create an individual versus a community identity?
10. What is Historical Archaeology and Material Culture?



