

The First Peoples of the Northwest Coast



School Program Teacher Overview *Canadian Museum of Civilization*

Introduction

This Program has been designed to provide an interactive experience which will enhance your study of Canada's First Peoples. During their exploration of the historical and contemporary lives of the First Peoples of the Northwest Coast, your students will take part in hands-on activities and learn about important topics such as the relationship of First Peoples to the environment, and their enduring cultural traditions. Please divide your group in two prior to your Museum visit.

Goals

Our primary goal in this Program is to capture your students' imaginations and bring history and culture to life. However, we have also ensured that the Program actively supports your curriculum by fostering respect for, and awareness of, the traditions, values and contributions of First Peoples to Canadian society.

Program Content

In the Museum's magnificent Grand Hall, your students will explore our recreation of a Native village from the Northwest Coast. They will tour life-sized housefronts, each representing one of Canada's Northwest peoples. Through our unique audio quiz, they will learn to identify various sounds typical of the Northwest Coast environment. They will handle tools and reproduction artifacts from the region, and build a human timeline covering thousands of years of life on the Northwest Coast. From thought-provoking games to entertaining activities, this Program ensures that history is made both relevant and meaningful to your students.

Duration, Times and Reservations

- 90 minutes
- Start times are 9:30 or 10:30 a.m. in the mornings, and 12:30 or 1:00 p.m. in the afternoons
- To make your reservation, please call Group Services at (819) 776-7014

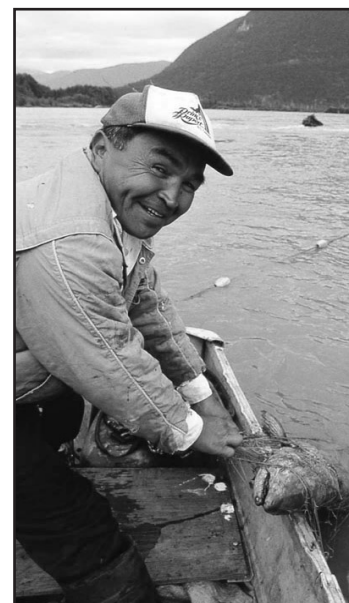
Grade Levels

- Ontario — 3–8
- Quebec — Cycle 2 to Secondary 2

Specific Learning Outcomes

In addition to providing a general appreciation of the many contributions made by First Peoples to Canadian life, this Program offers your students experiences which will deepen their knowledge and understanding in a number of specific areas. Through this program, students will gain:

- An understanding of how important culture is to how we see ourselves, both collectively and individually.
- An understanding that languages, traditions and artistic expressions make us unique, but that we all share many traits as human beings.
- An understanding that First Peoples have occupied the Northwest Coast for thousands of years, and that non-Aboriginal groups have been there a relatively short time.



- An understanding of how the First Peoples of the Northwest Coast used local natural resources as food, clothing and shelter, as well as to create masterful works of art.
- An understanding of how important shared roles and responsibilities are to communal living.
- An understanding of how traditions are handed down from one generation to the next, evolving along the way to reflect modern realities.

Curriculum Links

In order to support Ontario and Quebec curricula, this Program has been tailored to enhance your classroom content. Specific curriculum links for each level are outlined below.

Ontario

Grade 3 — Social Studies; Canada and the World Connections — Urban and Rural Communities

- The distinguishing features of urban and rural communities.
- Similarities and differences among people, places, and environments.
- Relationships between communities and their natural environments.

Grade 6 — Social Studies; Heritage and Citizenship — Aboriginal Peoples and European Explorers

- The impact of the environment on Canada's Aboriginal cultures.
- The social, political, and economic issues facing Aboriginal peoples in Canada today.

Grade 7 — Geography; Natural Resources

- How Canada's natural resources have contributed to its economic development.
- How human activity affects people and the environment.

Grade 8 — History; Canada — A Changing Society

- How diverse groups and individuals have contributed to the historical, cultural and economic development of Canada.

Quebec

Cycle 2 to Cycle 3 — Social Sciences; Geography, History and Citizenship Education

- Competency 1: understanding the organization of a society and its territory.
- Competency 2: interpretation of changes in a society and its territory.
- Competency 3: awareness of the diversity of societies and their territories.

Secondary 1 — General Geography

- Module 5: elements of human geography.

Secondary 2 — General History

- Module 2: prehistory and the first civilizations.

Preparing Your Class

In order to ensure that your class gets the most out of this unique educational experience, we encourage you to consider the following pre-visit activities:

- Explore our virtual exhibition of the Grand Hall online at www.civilization.ca.
- Research and discuss the First Nations that once lived in the Northwest Coast region.
- Research and prepare a presentation on the vast natural resources found in the coastal areas of British Columbia.

Post-Visit Activities

To help fix the lessons your students have learned during their Museum program, you may want to consider some of these follow-up activities:

- Ask your students to talk to their grandparents or other elderly people, and have them tell you a story about their traditions. Ask them whether these are traditions that have been passed down to them directly. Ask if they can share their traditions orally with their classmates.
- Have students describe the roles and responsibilities of each member in their own households, and how these roles and responsibilities contribute to the family as a whole.
- Have students prepare a project that includes researching individual Native communities, their everyday lives, their traditions and their cultures.

Evaluation

In order to ensure that our Programs remain helpful and relevant to your curriculum and to your students, we encourage all teachers to send in a post-Program evaluation. Evaluation forms will be provided onsite, and we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to provide us with important feedback on your Museum experience.