

Can You Dig It?



School Program Teacher Overview *Canadian Museum of Civilization*

Introduction

This program has been designed to encourage knowledge of First Peoples' lifestyles in Canada prior to the arrival of Europeans. As your students participate in a simulated archaeological dig and practice interpreting the artifacts they uncover, they will learn how archaeology can help us piece together the past. Through entertaining educational activities, your budding archaeologists will also discover how ancient inventions such as the atlatl, the ulu and the canoe helped First Peoples adapt and thrive in different Canadian environments. Please divide your class into four groups prior to your Museum visit.

Goals

Our primary goal in this program is to capture your students' imaginations and bring Canadian prehistory to life. The program also actively supports your curriculum by fostering respect for, and awareness of, the traditions, values and contributions of First Peoples to Canadian society.

Program Content

Under the expert guidance of Dr. Digs, students learn the fundamentals of archaeology, such as site location, excavation methods, stratigraphy and artifact analysis. Their knowledge is put to the test as they interpret modern household trash and participate in a simulated dig. Here they will have the opportunity to excavate large sandboxes representing actual sites in the Maritimes, the Arctic, the Prairies and Southern Ontario. By handling and interpreting the artifacts they uncover, and by exploring the beautiful displays in our First Peoples Hall, your students will piece together the diverse lifestyles of First Peoples from prehistory to modern times. They will discover how, by adapting to very different environments, First Peoples have developed complex societies and how, in so doing, they have forged a deep spiritual bond with the land.

Duration, Times and Reservations

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

Grade Levels

- Ontario — Grades 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 basic knowledge of the science of archaeology: what artifacts are, how to locate a site, how to excavate, and how stratigraphy works.
- Learn how artifacts can provide valuable clues about the past, and experience interpreting them.
- Discover when and how First Peoples arrived in Canada.



- Explore how diverse the Canadian environment is, and how factors such as terrain, climate and available resources can have an impact on the cultural development of human societies.
- Understand that the lifestyles of the First Peoples of the Maritimes, such as the Mi'kmaq and the Maliseet, change with the seasons.
- Learn that the Inuit were able to survive under harsh environmental conditions by making creative use of limited resources.
- Understand that communal cooperation was the key to the success of bison hunters on the Prairies.
- Learn about the central role played by women in Iroquois society, and how work was effectively divided between the men and the women of the Longhouse.

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 World Connections — Urban and Rural Communities

- The possible relationships between communities and natural environments.
- The possible similarities and differences among people, places, and environments.

Grade 5 — Social Studies; Canada and World Connections — The Provinces and Territories of Canada

- The distinguishing physical features of regions within the provinces and territories.

Grade 5 — Social Studies; Heritage and Citizenship — Early Civilizations

- The ways in which the natural environment shaped the cultures of various early civilizations.
- How people in early civilizations met their physical and social needs.

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; The Themes of Geographic Inquiry

- Using the five themes of geography (location/place, environment, region, interaction, movement) to focus inquiries.

Grade 7 — Geography; Natural Resources

- How Canada's natural resources have contributed to its economic development.
- Factors that affect the use and value of natural resources (e.g., supply and demand, technology).

Grade 8 — History; Canada — Migration

- Factors that affect migration and mobility.
- Patterns and trends in migration and their effect on Canada.

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 and 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:

- Learn about Canada's First Peoples by visiting the Museum's Web site at www.civillization.ca.
- Explore the Kid's Stop on the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Web site at www.ainc.gc.ca.
- Research www.digonsite.com, for classroom games and lesson plans on archaeology.
- Research and prepare a presentation that compares and contrasts the environment and the natural resources of the Canadian Arctic, the Atlantic region, the Prairies and Southern Ontario and Quebec.

Post-Visit Activities

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

- Have your students research one of the aboriginal groups that were mentioned in the program by searching the Web or the library and preparing a short classroom presentation that compares and contrasts the traditional and modern ways of life of these groups.
- Have your students find and investigate important contributions or inventions made by aboriginal Canadians in the fields of science, technology, medicine, art, sports and politics, and create a mural that celebrates these achievements.

Evaluation

In order to ensure that our programs remain helpful and relevant to your curriculum and to your students, we encourage all teachers to fill out 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.