

Things To Remember When You Visit

- For the safety of all please keep hands to yourself.
- Walk, do not run.
- Do not touch objects or exhibit cases unless told otherwise.
- Use indoor voices.
- Stay with the group.
- Follow any extra rules that your Museum Instructor provides.

Vocabulary

Use these words in class discussion, on projects, and in activities!

- Antique: An object from an earlier time.
- Museum: A place for the collection, preservation, study, and exhibition of artifacts.
- Botanical Garden: a garden designed for the culture, study, and exhibition of special plants, usually of scientific or ornamental value.
- Reproduction: An object made to look exactly like the original.
- Restore: To return an object to its original state.
- Label: An informational panel that identifies and describes objects.
- Heritage: Tradition and cultural history passed down from generation to generation.

Get Ready!

On your upcoming Heritage Highlights tour you will be guided through three indoor museums, botanical gardens, nature trails, and other unique treasures. Get ready to view antique automobiles, an historic carousel, beautiful flowers, and many pieces of history and art. Rotating exhibits provide new additions to the tour each year; this year we are showcasing *Painted Landscapes: Contemporary Views* and outdoor art *Points of View*.

Activities:

Make a list of museums that the students have visited. Compile data on what types of museums were visited, which were most popular, and how often students visit with family versus school. Discuss collections and favorite artifacts to get students thinking about what museums like Heritage have to offer.

Show and Tell- Have students share what they collect and describe why they chose those items. How do you decide when something gets added to your collection?

How did you start collecting? What part of your collection is your favorite and why? The exhibit about Heritage's automobile collection is called *Driven to Collect*- ask the students what this title tells them about what they might see and why.

Take Show and Tell objects and create a classroom "exhibit." Have students research and write labels for their objects. Come up with a title for the exhibit and decide how it should be arranged. Invite other classes to come see your exhibit and survey them about their favorite objects. Chart your findings. Museums always love to get feedback from their visitors. It helps them make better exhibits in the future.



Discuss your upcoming field trip. Go over museum manners and find out what the class knows about museums. Research museum occupations and think about who might be working on the staff at Heritage; who is in charge of each piece of your visit? What do you think "highlights" means? Write a "highlights tour" of your school.



Fun Facts

Early automobiles ran on gas, electric, or steam power.

Dexter rhododendrons are special because he bred them for their size, color, scent, and hardiness. One of his more special rhododendrons is called Yellow Gate; did you see it on your trip?

Interdisciplinary Connections

Arts: Think back to the automobiles you saw on your visit. Design a car for the future. What alternative energy will it run on? Create a model or display and share your design with the class through the making of commercials or advertisements promoting your new mode of transportation.

Science: Think about all the different trees and plants you saw at Heritage Museums & Gardens and use them as an inspiration to start a nature center in your classroom. Go on nature hikes and collect leaves or seeds for further study. Grow a class garden, inside or outside. Gather guidebooks, magnifying glasses, specimen boxes, bug catchers, and anything else you can think of to help further explore nature.

A worm farm can provide great compost for your garden and introduce consumers and decomposers into the classroom.

Reflecting on your visit:

Now that you have seen Heritage, go back to your classroom exhibit and turn it into a “mini-museum” about a topic you are studying. Give students different jobs: collecting objects, writing labels, designing the display area, advertising, leading visitors on tours, etc. Don’t forget to use your visitor survey results to make your museum even better! Relate the students’ work to the things they saw and learned at Heritage Museums & Gardens.

Museums gather information about the past in many ways; one unique way of learning about the past is through oral histories. Students can become junior historians by interviewing adults to collect an understanding of life in the past. Try asking some of the following questions:

- When you were my age what kinds of games and sports did you play?
- What were your favorite toys?
- What kind of car did your family have? What did it look like?



Yellowgate Rhododendron

Heritage Museums & Gardens displays many different artifacts from our nation’s past. These artifacts tell us a lot about how people lived. If an archeologist excavated your house 300 years from now what objects would they find? What would this say about you and your family? What sort of museum could be created to tell your story?

Resources:

Books-

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, by E.L. Konigsburg

The Boy Who Drew Birds, by Jacqueline Davies and Melissa Sweet

Henry Ford and the Model T, by Michael O’Hearn

Mrs. Brown on Exhibit: And Other Museum Poems, by Susan Katz

How to Take Your Grandmother to the Museum, by Lois Wyse, Molly Rose Goldman and Marie-Louise Gay

Seen Art? by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith

Online-

Looking at Art: moma.org/interactives/artsafari/

Art Games: getty.edu/gettygames/

Collecting: smithsonianeducation.org/students/idealabs/amazing_collections

America on the Move: americanhistory.si.edu/onthemove