



Digging History Grade 5

Program Description

The Transcona Historical Museum is home to the Patterson Archaeology collection, featuring 3,500 Manitoba First Nations artifacts dating from 10,000 years ago. Learn about Canada's First Peoples as you hear a Cree legend, handle authentic artifacts, and become an archaeologist in your very own dig.

Curriculum Connections

a) Social Studies – Cluster 1: First Peoples

Students will...

5-VH-008 Value oral tradition as an important source of knowledge about First Peoples

5-KL-017 Describe practices and beliefs that reflected First Peoples' connections with the land and the natural environment

5-KI-005 Describe characteristics of diverse First Peoples cultures before contact with the Europeans

5-KI-006 Compare daily life in diverse First Peoples communities

Examples: food, clothing, shelter, roles of men, women, Elders...

5-KH-024 Relate First Peoples' stories of their pre-contact and early contact with Europeans

b) Social Studies – Cluster 2: Early European Colonization (1600 to 1763)

Students will...

5-KH-026 Give examples of the impact of interactions between First Peoples and European explorers, colonists, and missionaries

Examples: shared technologies, trade, spread of disease...

5-VH-009 Appreciate the contributions of First Peoples to the development of Canada

c) Social Studies – Cluster 3: Fur Trade

5-KI-009 Describe daily life and challenges for various groups involved in the fur trade

5-KH-032 Relate stories of the people and events of the fur trade

Program Timeline

1 Hour

1. Introduction and Rules

Students are welcomed and rules are established.

2. Oral History – 10 min



Students brainstorm on the question - How Do We Learn About the Past? Students discuss the importance of oral history in First Nations traditions and hear a Cree legend.

3. Intro to Archaeology – 5 min

Students define “material evidence” and are introduced to archaeological practice.

4. Patterson Collection – 15 min

Students are given the opportunity to handle authentic artifacts from the Patterson collection in an inquiry-based learning exercise. Some artifacts include: arrowheads, pottery, scrapers, awls, celts, snow shoes, and decorative amulets and gorgets.

-beak acts like a harpoon

5. Dig – 30 min

Finally, students put it all together as they dig for replica artifacts in their own archaeological dig. Students must record their findings on an observation sheet, tying in the archaeological practice concepts they learned in the first half of the program.

Other Information:

Available at the Transcona Museum (max of 30 students) or we can come to your classroom.

To Book or for more information: call 204-222-0423 or email: info@transconamuseum.mb.ca