

CURIOUS CURATORS OR EXHIBIT EXPLORERS

NEBRASKA HISTORY MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

PRE-VISIT LESSON (TEACHER-LED)

Grade : 3rd-5th

Duration: 20 min.

Materials : 1 index card for each student, [Link to the Field Trip Story Slides](#)

Essential Questions:

- What is a museum?
- What does it take to care for objects?
- What does it feel like to describe an object in detail?

Learning Outcomes:

- Students assemble ideas about the job of a curator
- Students experience describing and making sense of descriptions of classroom objects

Lesson:

1. Introduction [5 minutes] The teacher will introduce the Curious Curator: What Do They Do? Field Trip.
 - Introduce the Museum using the Field Trip Story slides
 - What is a museum? (A place that preserves primary sources)
 - What is a primary source? (Anything made or used at a historic event: object, photo, document, movie, art, etc.)
 - How do we "keep" history? (Protect primary sources from water, light, bugs)
2. Collect and Share [10 minutes]
 - The teacher introduces the investigation questions and a sample object and news article.
 - Students choose an object in the classroom and write their answers on an index card with the title "What is it?". DON'T INCLUDE THE OBJECT NAME.
 - Teacher collects the index cards, shuffles them and then reads the description. Students guess what the object is.
3. Wrap-up discussion [5 minutes] The teacher leads this discussion:
 - How did it feel to write and hear descriptions of everyday objects?
 - Good work today! You'll get to write another detailed description during your Field Trip to the Nebraska History Museum. It will be a historic object next time!

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Classroom Object



Investigation questions

What is the object made out of?

Who uses it?

Why is it important?

What is it?

- It's made out of clay and paint and the things IN it are made of wood, lead, metal and plastic.
- The teacher uses these supplies for writing, drawing and cutting.
- It is important because it holds things in one place so your desk is tidy.