



Welcome to the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian



The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian hosts thousands of school groups every year and brings Native American culture to life through exhibits, programs, presentation, and activities. The museum's rich, hands-on experience compliments classroom learning. We offer docent-led tours and craft programs. We also have loan boxes that teachers can check out and use in their classrooms. In addition, the Mitchell's library and collections are a great resource for school projects.

Our programs are tailored to each school group's interest, time limit, and age. Standard programs include a docent-led tour highlighting the Mitchell's "touching tables" and a craft activity. Additional options include age-appropriate documentary or short films, Native American games, a Native American story read aloud, and/or visit to the museum shop. Older students may wish to complete a teacher-made worksheet or one provided by the Mitchell. Year-round crafts include beaded key chains, God's eyes, and dream catchers. Additional crafts are coordinated with current exhibits. For more information or to schedule a tour, visit our website at <http://www.mitchellmuseum.org> and email visitor services @mitchellmuseum.org or call 847-475-1030.



Lesson Plan Packets

The lesson plans that follow have been especially prepared to help teachers make the most of a museum field trip. They are divided into five culture areas packets—*Woodlands, Plains, Southwest, Northwest Coast, and Arctic-Subarctic*—to correspond to the permanent exhibit on museum’s first floor. Here is a summary of each culture area’s lesson plan packet layout.

Packet Layout

1. Introduction
2. Pre-Assessment Chart—Find out what your students know.
2. Specific Culture Area Map—Read a brief overview of the area.
3. Specific Culture Area Mural—Read the lesson objectives to be covered. Each culture area covers the same two common objectives.
 - Learning Objective 1: Native people met their fundamental, basic survival needs for food, houses, clothes, and transportation by using the resources available to them in their environment.
 - Learning Objective 2: When Europeans arrived, new resources from another part of the world became available to Native people and altered their ways of life.
4. Groups of Lesson Plans—Each group corresponds to the following if applicable:
 - Student Worksheets Before Visit —All plans that are connected to *Learning Objective 1* come first, followed by all plans for *Learning Objective 2*.
 - Student Worksheet During Visit—All plans that are connected to *Learning Objective 1* come first, followed by all plans for *Learning Objective 2*.
 - Student Worksheet After Visit—All plans that are connected to *Learning Objective 1* come first, followed by all plans for *Learning Objective 2*.
5. Post-Assessment Chart— Chart is geared to specific culture area.
6. Final Post-Assessment Chart—Chart covers all five culture areas.

We encourage you to use and/or adapt these lessons to suit the grade level and background of your individual classes. To help expand your teaching about American Indians, visit our website at <http://www.mitchellmuseum.org>. Click “Education” on the left-side menu and then “Teachers” in the sub-menu to access these lesson plan packets and more strategies, curricula, and resources.