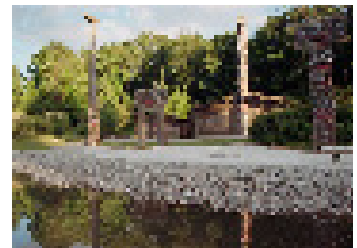


# THE POLE WALK

## Elementary Education Program for Grades 3 – 5

### Teacher's Notes



Clockwise (l-r): School Program (Photo: Paul Dixon), Haida Village (Photo: Christopher Erickson), and Haida House (Photo: Goh Iromoto).

## CONTENTS

Planning Your Visit (Booking Information, Class Guidelines, Program Description) .....	1
Program Outline .....	2
Pre or Post Visit Activities .....	3



Book your Education Program at 604 822 3825 or [bookings@moa.ubc.ca](mailto:bookings@moa.ubc.ca)  
Museum of Anthropology, 6393 N.W. Marine Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z2

# Planning Your Visit

## Booking Information

Please access our online bookings guide, ***Booking Education Programs: What You Need to Know***, available on the MOA website at [www.moa.ubc.ca/programs/resources.php](http://www.moa.ubc.ca/programs/resources.php).

## Class Guidelines and Requirements

This educational programs is led by trained Volunteer Associates (VAs). Accompanying adults and teachers are responsible to supervise their group **at all times**. We require a ratio of 1 adult per 7 students and recommend that students wear name-tags. Upon arrival, please check in with the Admissions desk and make arrangements for payment. The Volunteer Associate responsible for your group will meet you in the Museum lobby.

Teachers are asked to review and communicate the guidelines for supervising adults available in our online bookings guide, ***Booking Education Programs: What You Need to Know***, at [www.moa.ubc.ca/programs/resources.php](http://www.moa.ubc.ca/programs/resources.php).

## Program Description and Objectives

**The Pole Walk** is a one hour and fifteen minute program designed to give students an overview of Northwest Coast (NWC) First Nations art and material culture. During this program, students are introduced to different kinds of poles and house-posts, and their diverse stylistic and functional features. This program aims to encourage a respect for NWC cultures and an understanding of how poles were, and continue to be, carved by First Nations artists.

Note: **The Pole Walk** is a Volunteer Associate guided program and does not include a full tour of the Museum. We welcome you to extend your visit before or after your scheduled program as there are many more exhibits to explore with your class.

## Curriculum Relevance

**The Pole Walk** is designed to complement the BC Grade 4 Social Studies Curriculum, although it can be adapted to other levels. Skills that students practice during the program include: observation, identification, and cultural sensitivity, as well as critical and creative thinking. The content of the program relates to the following subject areas: First Nations Studies, BC History, Language Arts, and Visual Arts.

## Program Outline

### Meet and Greet in the Lobby

The class is greeted in the Museum lobby by an Education Volunteer Associate (VA) for a brief introduction to the program and associated activities. Students then have the opportunity to observe our outdoor house posts and poles and visit the Haida House before proceeding into the Museum galleries.

### Outdoor Tour

Students are given an outdoor tour and introduced to houseposts, frontal poles, and memorial poles by Musqueam and Haida artists. Students visit the Haida House to learn about its construction and its exterior and interior poles. Students are introduced to crest images and begin to recognize crest figures such as bear, wolf, eagle and raven.

### Indoor Tour

In the Museum galleries, the class is guided through the permanent Northwest Coast (NWC) collections in the Museum's Great Hall. The tour features Musqueam objects, as well as poles from the Haida and Kwakwaka'wakw Nations. Figures on the house posts and poles are identified and the role of crests introduced.

### Presentation

Through illustrations, the life cycle of the cedar tree is presented. Using photographs, the process of creating a totem pole is described, including the felling of the tree, the carving of the work, and the raising of the pole. The illustration focuses on the raising of *The Respect to Bill Reid Pole* which students see on the outdoor tour.

### Drawing Activity

Students choose a crest figure from one of the poles to draw. This activity aims to focus the students on the cultural importance of crests, and to reinforce the continuity of artistic traditions by First Nations of the Northwest Coast.

### Wrap up

Students review key themes introduced throughout the program. Students and accompanying adults are encouraged to visit the Museum galleries before returning to school.

## Pre or Post Visit Activities

### Questions to stimulate discussion:

- What do museums do?
- What is a museum of anthropology?
- Why do museums have the objects they have?
- How does the environment influence what an artist creates?
- What can be learned about people by studying objects they make?

### Introduce your students to the Northwest Coast (NWC)

Using the “First Nations in British Columbia” map (<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/map.htm>), show the students the traditional territories of the First Nations related to the program: Haida, Musqueam, and Kwakwaka'wakw.

### Explore the idea of collecting

What do people collect, and why? Have the students bring in their collections (of cards, comics, hats, tickets, etc.), and present them to the class. Why do they choose to collect these things?

### Research contemporary First Nations artists

Encourage students to look for contemporary work in their community by First Nations artists for example: Musqueam artist Susan Point; Haida artist Bill Reid; Kwakwaka'wakw artist Mungo Martin.

### Explore woodworking traditions

Ask students to bring a wooden object to class from their own culture (or a photograph of one). Encourage students to ask: What is it used for? What materials were used? How was it made? Is it still done today?

Ask students to consider modern tools found in their homes that they would use to create objects from a tree. Compare them with tools that Northwest Coast First Nations historically used, and those which continue to be used.