

THE TOTEM POLE WALK

Elementary Education Program for Grades 3-5

Teacher's Notes



Clockwise from right: Totem Pole Walk Presentation, MOA Great Hall (Photo: Courtesy MOA), 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
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/learn/resources.php.

Class Guidelines and Requirements

All educational programs are 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/learn/resources.php. Once you book a program you will receive in your confirmation email Guidelines for Groups Visiting MOA.

Program Description and Objectives

The Totem Pole Walk is a two hour 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 totem poles and houseposts, and focus on their diverse stylistic and functional features. This program aims to encourage a respect for NWC cultures and an understanding of how totem poles were, and continue to be, carved by First Nations artists.

Note: *The Totem 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 as there are many more exhibits to explore with your class.

Curriculum Relevance

The Totem Pole Walk is designed to complement the BC Grade 4 Social Studies Curriculum, though 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 Outside

The class is greeted outside the Museum 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 poles before proceeding into the Museum galleries.

Outdoor Tour

In the outdoor exhibition spaces, the class explores and discusses Musqueam and Haida material culture. Students learn about houseposts, frontal poles, mortuary poles, and have the opportunity to visit inside the Haida House.

Haida House Activity

In the Haida House, students are split into two groups where they participate in an identification activity using images of totem poles not yet seen on their tour or at Haida House. This activity is to encourage the identification of these objects using the knowledge and identification techniques explained earlier on the outdoor tour.

Indoor Tour

In the Museum galleries, the class is guided through the permanent Northwest Coast (NWC) collections. This tour features Musqueam objects, as well as poles from the Haida and Kwakwaka'wakw Nations.

Presentation

In the Great Hall, the VA presents an illustrated life cycle of the cedar tree and describes the process of creating a totem pole including the cutting of the tree, the carving of the work, and the raising of the pole.

Drawing Activity

Students choose a crest image or a figure from one of the poles to draw. This activity aims to focus the students on the importance of crests and continuing artistic traditions.

Wrap up

Students review key themes introduced throughout the program and are encouraged to share their knowledge with family and friends.

Pre or Post Visit Activities

Explore the idea of collecting

What do people collect, and why? Have 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?

Introduce your students to the Northwest Coast (NWC)

A map First Nations in British Columbia is available on the MOA website at www.moa.ubc.ca/learn/resources.php. Using the map, show the students the territories of the First Nations related to the program: the Haida, the Musqueam, the Kwakwaka'wakw.

Focus on contemporary First Nations artists

Explore public art in your area. Look for contemporary work by First Nations artist for example: Musqueam artist Susan Point; Haida artists Bill Reid; Kwakwaka'wakw artist Mungo Martin.

Have students explore woodworking

Ask them to bring to class a photo or a small wooden object (masks, pictures, sculptures, furniture, etc.) from their own cultures. 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 this with ideas of tools that Northwest Coast First Nations historically used and those which continue to be used.