

LEARNING FROM ARTWORKS + BELONGINGS

Teacher's Notes | Grades 3–8



Photo by Josh Hite.

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Booking Information

Booking information, including details about rates and parking, can be found at moa.ubc.ca/school-programs.

Prepare for Your Visit

- Review and circulate the guidelines for supervising adults on page 7.
- Review the overview, outline and resources in advance.

Additional Information

- Upon arrival, please check in with the Admissions desk and make arrangements for payment.
- School programs are led by trained MOA staff and volunteers. A staff member or volunteer will meet you in the lobby.
- The guided program does not include a full tour of the Museum, so we welcome you to extend your visit to explore more of MOA.



Photo by Cory Dawson.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Learning from Artworks + Belongings

How can we learn from cultural belongings and artworks? What can these works reveal about the people connected to them?

In this program, students will enjoy a guided gallery tour spotlighting belongings and artworks that embody rich, diverse stories and histories. Students will be invited to make observations, inferences, and reflections about how these works inspire learning and inquiry. Following the tour, students will visit the MOA Learning Lab and engage in a hands-on activity of the teacher's choosing.

Big Ideas

- Artworks and belongings tell stories about the people connected to them.
- The way we learn from artworks and belongings depends on our own experiences, identities, and prior knowledge.
- Artworks and belongings come to and leave museums in different ways.

Program Objectives

- Develop students' capacity to observe and make inferences
- Introduce the concept of learning about communities, histories and experiences through artworks and cultural belongings
- Inspire reflection and critical thinking about students' relationships with their own and others' belongings

Program Options

When requesting your program, choose which of the following options will best suit your students:

- Guided Visit + Hands-on Activity (90 min)
- Guided Visit Only (45 min)

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Introduction

The class will be greeted in the Museum lobby by the program facilitator for a brief introduction to the program and activities. The facilitator will share guiding questions and provide an overview of behaviour expectations.

Guided Gallery Visit

The facilitator will invite students to make observations about a selection of artworks and cultural belongings, and ask students to make inferences about the stories, histories and messages they might represent. Students will see works in MOA's core exhibition spaces, including the Pacific Northwest Galleries.

Hands-on Activity (optional)

Following the tour, students will enjoy a hands-on activity in the Learning Lab. Teachers will have been prompted to choose between one of the following activities when submitting a booking request:

- **Arts-based Activity:** Taking inspiration from Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas' Bone Box, students will create a collective mural depicting belongings that are precious to them, reflecting on how belongings tell stories and ethical considerations of sharing belongings in museums.
- **Teaching Collection Activity:** Guided by inquiry prompts, students will visit with belongings from the touchable teaching collection, build inferences about the belongings based on their observations, and learn from quotes from their makers.

If you are unsure which activity you have selected or wish to change your selection, please contact bookings@moa.ubc.ca.

x^wməθk^wəyəm: q^wi:lq^wəl' ?ə k^wθə snəwəyət ct

Musqueam: giving information about our teachings

Designed as a cross-curricular resource, this teaching kit features a range of community-authorized resources, activities and information about Musqueam history, language and culture. This kit includes first-person interviews and quotes with Musqueam community members offering their knowledge and experience in their own words, as well as contemporary belongings representing ancestral knowledge for hands-on learning.

- For more information, including how to rent the physical kit, visit moa.ubc.ca/school-programs/online-resources/#musqueam
- Access the accompanying website: www2.moa.ubc.ca/musqueamteachingkit

Voices of the Canoe

This website presents a range of contemporary and historical sources for learning the history of Fijian, Haida, and Squamish canoe traditions and their ongoing relevance to Indigenous people. The framework for the website is grounded in Indigenous knowledge and historical consciousness. The site features interviews from Indigenous artists, canoe makers and community members to encourage students to consider multiple perspectives and question how historical significance is defined and determined. This website was developed by MOA in conjunction with The History Education Network/Histoire et Education en Réseau.

- Access this resource: www2.moa.ubc.ca/voicesofthecanoe
- Access a YouTube playlist of Voices of the Canoe interviews: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZ7eQH0JTUYNWaQAIGwshXAeMDLmhTMu9>

MOA App

The MOA App features interviews with artists, knowledge keepers, and curators about highlights in MOA's galleries. Although intended to enrich an onsite museum visit, the MOA App can also be accessed offsite. Teachers can share first-person interviews about important artworks and cultural belongings, right in the classroom.

- Access the MOA App: guide.moaubc.yourcultureconnect.com

Living Tradition: The Kwakwaka'wakw Potlatch on the Northwest Coast

The U'mista Cultural Centre is one of the longest-operating and most successful First Nations cultural facilities in BC, founded in 1980 as a ground-breaking project to house potlatch artifacts which had been seized by government during an earlier period of cultural repression. Since time immemorial, the Kwakwaka'wakw have hosted potlatch ceremonies, and potlatching continues to play a central and unifying role in community life today. The repatriated Potlatch Collection at the U'mista Cultural Centre tells an epic story of the resistance and resilience of the Kwakwaka'wakw. *Living Tradition: The Kwakwaka'wakw Potlatch on the Northwest Coast* offers curriculum-based lesson plans, film clips, 3-D photographs, and Kwak'waka audio clips for educators and students.

- Access this resource: umistapotlatch.ca

MOA-CAT

The Collections Online (MOA-CAT) is MOA's online object catalogue where all the collection records are available for browsing and searching. Explore the cultural belongings and artworks in MOA's collection prior to or following your guided visit.

- Access the MOA-CAT: collection-online.moa.ubc.ca

SUPERVISING ADULTS

Teachers, we ask that you please review this information with all of your accompanying adults. These suggestions will help support an environment for students' learning and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience at MOA.

Suggestions for Supervising Adults

Our goal at MOA is to support and facilitate students' learning during their visit to the Museum.

As a supervising adult, we ask that you stay with your student group for the duration of your visit. This includes when the students are in galleries, the lobby, the gift shop, and the museum grounds.

We also ask that you participate in the supervising of your students. It is very exciting to visit somewhere new, and we'd like your help in assisting students to participate and behave in a way that doesn't disrupt others' learning and respects the Museum and our collection.

Museum Guidelines + Helpful Tips

- Please reinforce the importance of respecting the Museum and our collection.
- A few objects in the Museum may be touched gently. If an object does not have a sign indicating that it may be touched, please help us safekeep our important collection by reminding students to keep their hands to themselves.
- Our general rules are similar to other special places. Running, jumping, and shouting detract from others' experiences.
- If you spend time outside, please help us preserve our grounds and foster a safe environment by ensuring students do not throw rocks or other items.
- We ask that all visitors – students and adults alike – put away their cellphones, cameras, and other electronic devices during school programs. After your program is over, please feel free to take non-flash photography throughout the Museum.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting your students' learning experience at the Museum of Anthropology! We couldn't do what we do without you.

SELECTED BC CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Learning from Artworks + Belongings | 8

Social Studies 3



Learning about Indigenous peoples nurtures multicultural awareness and respect for diversity.

People from diverse cultures and societies share some common experiences and aspects of life.

- Cultural characteristics and ways of life of local First Peoples and global Indigenous peoples
- Aspects of life shared by and common to peoples and cultures
- Oral history, traditional stories, and artifacts as evidence about past First Peoples cultures

Social Studies 4



Interactions between First Peoples and Europeans lead to conflict and cooperation, which continues to shape Canada's identity

- The impact of colonization on First Peoples societies in British Columbia and Canada
- The history of the local community and of local First Peoples communities

Social Studies 5



Canada's policies and treatment of minority peoples have negative and positive legacies.

- Past discriminatory government policies and actions

SELECTED BC CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Arts Education 6



Engaging in creative expression and experiences expands people's sense of identity and community.

Experiencing art is a means to develop empathy for others' perspectives and experiences.



- Symbolism and metaphor to explore ideas and perspective
- Traditional and contemporary Indigenous arts and arts-making processes
- A variety of national and international works of art and artistic traditions from diverse cultures, communities, times, and places

Arts Education 7



Through art making, one's sense of identity and community continually evolves.

Experiencing art challenges our point of view and expands our understanding of others.



- Traditional and contemporary Indigenous arts and arts-making processes
- A variety of national and international works of art and artistic traditions from diverse cultures, communities, times, and places
- Ethical considerations and cultural appropriation related to the arts

Arts Education 8



Individual and collective expression can be achieved through the arts.

Artists often challenge the status quo and open us to new perspectives and experiences.



- Traditional and contemporary Indigenous arts and arts-making processes
- A variety of national and international works of art and artistic traditions from diverse cultures, communities, times, and places
- Ethical considerations and cultural appropriation related to the arts