

SAMUEL'S STORY

TEACHER MATERIALS for Jewish Organizations

Thank you for choosing a field trip and educational program with the National Museum of American Jewish History. We are sure that your experience will be both enjoyable and educational for your students. Please use these **pre-visit materials** to help prepare your class for their field trip or outreach program, and to provide a context for the Museum lesson. In addition, there are suggested follow-up activities for you to do in the classroom after your visit.

Since these lessons are appropriate for use with students from Pre-K through 3rd grade, please adapt them to the ability of your class.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Established in 1976, and situated on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, the National Museum of American Jewish History presents educational programs and experiences that preserve, explore and celebrate the history of Jews in America.

The Museum serves as an important resource for information about Jewish life and culture, exposing visitors to American Jewish history through its changing exhibitions and complimentary programming. It also offers a range of public and school programs related to the exhibitions.

ABOUT THE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Your visit will be divided into three sections. A museum educator will conduct your lesson.

1. Your class will visit historic Congregation Mikveh Israel, “Synagogue of the American Revolution,” which shares its location with the Museum. Students will get an opportunity to learn about this unique Sephardic synagogue.
2. Students will see a short presentation of artifacts from the Museum’s collection.
3. Your class will cooperate in a hands-on lesson that will introduce the students to artifacts while teaching them about life in Colonial Philadelphia.

Please allow two hours of time for the full program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THIS LESSON

Artifacts are objects made by people. They are found everywhere and can be of any size. When artifacts are handled, active learning begins to take place. Hands-on objects are excellent learning tools to start to understand the importance of artifacts.

What can your students learn through studying artifacts?

- A greater appreciation of the role that “objects” play in their everyday life.
- Understand ways to interpret objects to learn more about us, other societies and historical periods of time.
- Learn more about the lives of people who left little or no written information.
- Develop curiosity of about artifacts because they are real and once were part of someone’s life.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

The following lessons are designed to prepare your students for their upcoming visit.

Suggested Pre-Visit Lessons

The following activities will help your students understand more fully some of the topics that will be addressed during their tour.

1. Are All Kippot Exactly Alike?

Students will learn how to observe and study objects.

Objectives:

- Skill goal: observation
- Skill goal: sorting and categorizing objects
- Affective goal: cooperating in groups

Instructions

- Divide the class into small groups.
- Hand out the same/similar object to each student within a group: prayer books, similar kippot or tallitot.
- Ask students to study the object carefully noting any identifiable or distinctive marks made by wear, tear and handling.
- Put the objects into a common pile.
- The students will now test their observation skills by retrieving their own object from the pile.

2. Show and Tell

Objectives:

- Skill goal: oral communication
- Skill goal: explaining through pictures
- Affective goal: building relationships with others by sharing personal information

Instructions:

- Have each student bring in a family object (photo, recipe, holiday decoration or ritual object) that tells a story about his/her favorite Jewish holiday, family member, or a memorable experience that has affected that student.
- Have the student tell a story about the object to the class.
- After each student has a turn, have them record the story about their object by drawing an illustration or comic strip. They can draw one aspect of the story or use a story board method.

Suggested Post-Visit Lessons

These activities are developed to further enhance the students' visit to the Museum and to reinforce the information they learned.

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1. Can I Remember That?

Objectives:

- Skill goal: remembering objects
- Affective goal: sharing and relating to objects from history

Instructions:

- Ask each student to sketch a favorite artifact from the Museum that they remember.
- Do they also remember anything else about the artifact? Why is it their favorite?

2. The Museum Game

Reinforce the Museum experience.

Objectives:

- Skill goal: sorting and categorizing objects
- Skill goal: observation
- Affective goal: Cooperating in groups

Instructions:

- Divide the class into groups.
- In the center of each group, place a few disparate everyday objects.
- Students will be pretend to be curators by placing these objects in categories, such as:
 - *Material
 - *Color
 - *Size
 - *Weight
 - *Similar function (ex. All kitchen utensils, all things used when it is raining)
 - *Texture
- After the group is finished placing the objects into a category, have them put the objects into a different category from the list above.

3. What Stays in My Memory?

Objectives:

- Content goal: learning about memory
- Affective goal: understanding emotions and how objects elicit emotions

Instructions:

- Ask your students what artifact from the Museum will stay in their memory because it made them feel:
 - ***Surprised**
 - ***Proud**
 - ***Fearful**
 - ***Joyous**
 - ***Sadness**
- Have them share other feelings they got from the objects
- Additionally, students can write a few sentences or draw a picture to describe their reaction to the above.

4. How Does My Family Fit Into the American Jewish History?

Objectives:

Content goal: learning about the past

Skill goal: researching objects

Skill goal: oral communication

Instructions:

- Ask the students to work with their family to help them put together some objects that belonged to a family member from a former generation.
- Have them look at the objects carefully and put them in chronological order.
- Have the students ask family members to share any stories about the life of the person that can be told through the objects.
- Ask the students to bring one of the objects to class and relate a story told to them about it.