

# Pre & Post-Visit Activity Ideas

Here are some ideas to help prepare students for your field trip to the museum, and to help them reflect on their time at the museum:

## Pre-Field Trip Activities:

- Complete the "Know" and "Want to Know" section of a K-W-L chart.
- Please discuss museum etiquette with students to prepare them for how to behave at a museum, including walking instead of running, using inside voices, listening to museum staff during the program, and not touching artifacts unless prompted to.
- As a class, brainstorm appropriate clothing to wear for the trip, including gear for rainy weather.
- Discuss with students how to ask questions during a field trip, and brainstorm a list of open-ended observation questions for them to use to gather information during the field trip.
- Teach students the vocabulary that is in the "Bubbles" lesson they will be asked to read during the field trip. (This can be found in the 2020 Field Trip Guide).
- Read a storybook or articles to your class that discuss pioneer life in Michigan to get them thinking about what they will encounter during the field trip. Here are some examples:
  - [http://seekingmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/mitten\\_pioneer-life.pdf](http://seekingmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/mitten_pioneer-life.pdf)
  - <http://seekingmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/MHK-Getting-to-Michigan.pdf>
  - [http://seekingmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/mitten\\_three-fires.pdf](http://seekingmichigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/mitten_three-fires.pdf)

## Post-Field Trip Activities:

- Have students return to their K-W-L chart and fill out the Learned section.
- Provide time for students to share general observations and reactions from their field trip experiences.
- Have the class compose and send letters to the museum. Include their favorite experience or object, and any special information that they learned. Also have them include any feedback they may have.
- Spend time reviewing and answering the observation questions that you had brainstormed before the field trip.
- Use the field trip as a touchstone throughout the remainder of the school year. Students should be able to use their trip findings as evidence throughout the unit.

