

Pre-visit Lesson Plan 2

OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Title: Basics of/visiting a museum

Grade levels: Pre-k to 12

Length of time: One–two class periods

Objectives:

1. Students will understand the basics of a museum, especially the Oklahoma History Center, to engage them in their upcoming field trip.
2. Students will understand the rules of a museum.
3. Students will understand museum vocabulary.
4. Students will listen to the explanations given by the teacher, answer questions, and create lists as a group.

Materials needed:

Whiteboard, dry erase markers

Computer, internet access, connection to a projector or smartboard

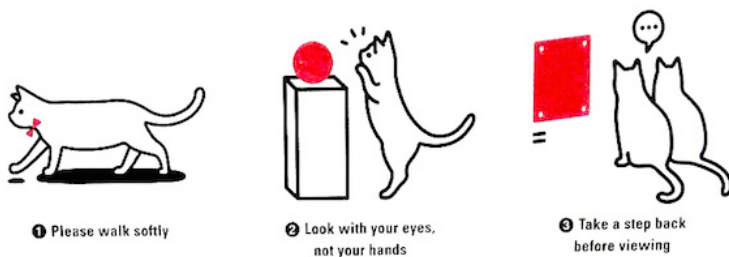
Steps:

1. Start lesson by going over the list of museums students have visited from the previous lesson.
2. Ask students “What kinds of things do you see in these museums?”
3. Ask students “What do these museums have in common?”
(They all have collections)
4. Define “museum” for students. A museum is an institution that collects, preserves, studies, and exhibits works of art and artifacts.
5. Talk to students about their upcoming visit to the Oklahoma History Center. Ask them what they think this museum studies, collects, and exhibits.
6. Provide students with a description of the museum:
The Oklahoma History Center is a museum that collects, preserves, and shares artifacts about and from the state of Oklahoma and its peoples.



7. Ask the class what they think **exhibition** means. (see vocabulary list)
8. Explain that museums have several people on staff that put the exhibits together and bring people into the museum to see the exhibits. Explain **curators**.
(see vocabulary list).
9. Ask the class how they know what they are looking at when they see an object or artifact in a museum, and how they get additional information on that object.
(**labels**: see vocabulary list)

10. Ask students what they think is on a label in a museum.
11. Make a label on the board and include the following:
 - a. Title or name of piece
 - b. Person or culture who made it
 - c. Where the object is from
 - d. Date of the object
 - e. What the object is made of
12. Discuss what **anonymous** means on a label, as sometimes curators do not know who made the artifact. (see vocabulary list)
13. Explain that sometimes curators have to estimate the date of an object if the exact date is unknown. This is on the label as "c." Discuss the term **circa**. (see vocabulary list)
14. Watch the *How to Visit an Art Museum* video clip <https://youtu.be/drrBd1bCiW0>
15. Ask students to help you make a list on the board of things to remember when visiting a museum. (No food or drink, no touching artifacts, inside voices, no flash photography, etc.) Explain to the students that the reason for these rules is to protect the museum's collections and ensure that everyone visiting the museum can learn and enjoy themselves.



Museum Vocabulary List

Anonymous: unknown person

Artifact: an object produced by human workmanship, especially a tool, weapon, or anything of archaeological or historical interest

Circa: approximately or around

Collection: a group of objects or works of art that are kept together, especially to be viewed or studied

Conservation: process of conserving (taking care of, keeping in safe condition)

Curator: a museum professional responsible for the study of collections

Exhibition: a display of art or collections, usually within a theme

Gallery: a large space where an exhibit is shown

Label: posted information that identifies an object and states its age, origin, and use

Museum: an institution for acquisition, preservation, study, and exhibit works of art or artifacts of historical value or interest

Name _____

Date _____

Word Puzzle

Fill in the blanks, then use the bold/highlighted underlined letters to spell out the name of a gallery at the Oklahoma History Center!

1. Approximately, around or:
2. To take care of:
3. Posted information used to identify an object:
4. Unknown person:
5. Institution that preserves, studies, and exhibits works of art or artifacts:
6. Professional in a museum who studies collections:
7. A group of objects that are kept together, especially to be viewed or studied:
8. A display of art objects or collections:

Use the highlighted letters to spell out the answer.

What is the name of the gallery at the Oklahoma History Center that currently has the *Crossroads of Commerce* exhibit?

Word Puzzle Key

Fill in the blanks, then use the bold/highlighted underlined letters to spell out the name of a gallery at the Oklahoma History Center!

1. Approximately, around or: **C**IRCA
2. To take care of: **C**ONSERVATION
3. Posted information used to identify an object: **L**ABEL
4. Unknown person: **A**NONYMOUS
5. Institution that preserves, studies, and exhibits works of art or artifacts:
MUSEUM
6. Professional in a museum who studies collections: **C**URATOR
7. A group of objects that are kept together, especially to be viewed or studied:
COLLECTION
8. A display of art objects or collections: **E**XHIBITION

Use the highlighted letters to spell out the answer.

What is the name of the gallery at the Oklahoma History Center that currently has the *Crossroads of Commerce* exhibit?

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