

General Pre-Visit Orientation

Using Museums to Learn about the Past

Grades: 1-12

Objective: Students will understand the role that museums fill in the world and will feel comfortable entering the museum environment at Hanford Mills Museum.

Method: Students will discuss museums and some of their components as well as what to expect when they arrive at Hanford Mills Museum.

Materials:

- A copy of the orientation questions included in the procedures section.

Time:

- Preparation Time: 5 minutes
- Class Time: 15-20 minutes

Procedure:

- Discuss how we learn about the past.
 - Question to ask: How can we learn about people from the past?
- What is a museum?
 - What is a museum?
 - What is the purpose of a museum?
 - Why are museums important?
 - What types of museums are there?
 - Hanford Mills Museum is a type of history museum known as a historic site. What other types of history museums are there?
- Discuss Basic Museum Vocabulary

- Museum
- Exhibit
- Object
- Artifact
- Label

- Discuss etiquette
 - Do not touch artifacts because the moisture and dust that may be on your hands may hurt the artifacts. We want them to last a long time.
 - Do not run.
 - Do not be rude.
 - Ask questions.
 - If you bring writing implements, bring pencils only please; the reason being that pencil is easier to remove than ink.

- Discuss logistics
 - Where are you going?
 - How long will you be there?
 - Why are you going?
 - Will you be eating there?
 - Bathroom breaks.
 - Gift shop.

Assessment:

- Participation in class discussion (listening and speaking).

- NYS Learning Standards:
 - ELA 1