



## Pre-Trip Lesson Plan The Historian

- I. Grade Level: grades 4-8
- II. Objectives:
  - a. To understand what a historian is and the critical thinking that historians engage in.
  - b. To promote the use of primary sources and understand the difference between primary and secondary sources.
  - c. To learn how a museum functions and what the purpose of a museum is.
- III. Standards:
  - a. Sunshine State Standards (2006):
    - i. Social Studies: Time, Continuity, and Change: Standard 1: understands the difference between primary and secondary sources.
    - ii. Language Arts: Reading: Standard 2: Constructs meaning from a wide range of texts.
    - iii. Language Arts: Literature: Standard 2: Responds critically to fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama.
- IV. Vocabulary:
  - a. Historian: Someone who is an expert in history, who usually dose research and writes about history.
  - b. Primary source: an original document, or first-hand account of an event that has been written. Using these types of sources allows you to interpret for yourself.
  - c. Secondary source: A document that was written after an event, person, place or thing. This is not a first-hand account, and often is written in another time period.
  - d. Artifact: Any object that was made by human beings. This can be a tool, pottery, flags etc.
  - e. Collection: a group of objects that have been gathered in one place. In a museum these objects usually relate to one another.
  - f. Museum: A building or place that a collection is displayed, interpreted, and preserved.
  - g. Preserve: To keep the object in a condition that it is able to last a long time. This includes keeping the object out of harms way, providing climate control, and being careful when interacting with the object.
  - h. Interpretation: Explaining the meaning of objects, people and places. When displaying an object in a museum the audience wants to understand its purpose. The history of the object needs to be known, the context of the surrounding objects as well as what types of information will be most profitable to the viewer.



- i. Display: presenting the object in a museum. When displaying one needs to think about what objects should surround this object, and how to maneuver the object so it can easily be seen.
- j. Mission Statement: A mission statement states the goal or purpose of you museum and how your museum will accomplish its goal or purpose.

#### Activity 1: Think like a Historian

- V. Materials:
  - a. Worksheet: Think like a Historian
- VI. Procedures: Hand out the worksheet: Think like a Historian. Then review the worksheet with the class. Then compile a list of primary and secondary resources with the class. This can include items you have read in class or general types of documents. For instance, a primary source is William McKinley's State of the Union Address in 1897, and a secondary source is a biography about William McKinley. Then review the Open-Ended Questions.
- VII. Assessment:
- VIII. Open-Ended Questions:
  - a. Which types of sources are original documents and first-time accounts?
  - b. Which types of sources have been written after an event, person, place, object that is not a first-hand account?
  - c. What types of questions should you ask of these sources? (**Why** something was written, **how** something was written, **when** it was written, and **who** the author of it was).
  - d. Do you think like a historian when you read a document?
  - e. Is anyone interested in being a historian?

#### Activity 2: What is a Museum?

- IX. Materials:
  - a. Worksheet: What is a Museum?
  - b. Magazines
  - c. Various craft supplies
  - d. Writing Utensil
- X. Procedures: hand out the worksheet: What is a Museum? Allow time for each student to complete the worksheet.
- XI. Assessment: This activity can be graded based on creativity, completion, and use of information provided.
- XII. Open-Ended Questions:
  - a. Name some types of Museums.
  - b. What was the last museum you went to?
  - c. What is your favorite part of a museum?
  - d. Would you want to work in a museum or create your own?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pre-Trip Lesson Plan Think like a Historian

**Historians** study historical events, ideas, and institutions. They use a wide variety of sources to interpret the area of their study. For example, a historian studying George Washington may read his diary. However, it is very important for historians to be objective, meaning that you need to develop your own opinion of the event or idea. Often when history is written, the person writing the history has a particular motive, so that what you are reading may not be as accurate as the author wants you to think. Also, the facts that the author is using may be swayed to better fit the author's purposes.

### Key Tools to being a **Historian**:

1. Ask Questions
2. Find intelligent and knowledgeable resources
3. Listen to all the facts
4. Choose which facts are most important for your understandings
5. Develop your own opinion based on your research

**Primary Sources** can be beneficial because they give you insight in to a particular time period from someone living during this particular time period. However these sources may be swayed to benefit the writer of the source.

**Secondary Sources** are beneficial because they compact a wide range of sources together. However, all of the sources this secondary source has used have been interpreted to help the argument of the writer.

Therefore, in order to be a true **historian** it is important to think about **why** something was written, **how** something was written, **when** it was written, and **who** the author of it was.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Pre-Trip Lesson Plan What is a Museum?

A Museum is a collection of objects that are beautiful, old, rare, or of interest. A museum preserves these objects, displays these objects, and interprets the collection for the public.

1. Preserving: to keep the object in a condition that it is able to last a long time. This includes keeping the object out of harms way, providing climate control, and being careful when interacting with the object.
2. Displaying: presenting the object in a museum. When displaying one needs to think about what objects should surround this object, and how to maneuver the object so it can easily be seen.
3. Interpreting: Explaining the meaning of objects, people, and places. When displaying an object in a museum the audience wants to understand its purpose. The history of the object needs to be known, the context of the surrounding objects, as well as, what types of information will be most profitable to the viewer.

- I. What type of Museum would you like to create? (American history, Florida history, art, science, historical home such as George Washington's house, or any other idea you can come up with)

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- II. Mission Statement: A mission statement states the goal or purpose of you museum and how your museum will accomplish its goal or purpose. For Instance, here is the mission statement for Cracker Country:

The mission of Cracker Country is to document, preserve, and interpret rural pioneer Florida history and folklife during the period of 1870-1912, using: museum best practices and techniques; attention to historical accuracy; and detail a group of well trained and enthusiastic docents; interactive interpretive programs; excellent customer service; sound fiscal principles and practices.

Now write a mission statement for your museum:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

III. Collection: as mentioned above the purpose of a museum is to present a collection to museum guests. Now create a collection of three objects that relate to your Museum and mission statement. (You can use clippings from a magazine, bring in an object, create your own object, or draw a picture of the object you would like to have in your collection). Use the space below to describe you objects.

1.
2.
3.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions:

1. How do your objects relate to one another?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How will you preserve your objects?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How will you display your objects (on the wall, pedestal, in a case, outside, etc.)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_