

Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

Garland Hall of American History, Grade 1

Gallery Description: The U.S. History Hall explores the drastic changes in American Society between 1865 and 1914, when in a single lifetime an agrarian society changed into a modern urban culture. The advances in technology in the fields of communication and transportation can be demonstrated in the exhibits on inventions; the telegraph, telephone, automobile, electric trolley, airplane, and the improvements in railroads. The machinery that revolutionized farming, the lumber industry and the rise of the conservation movement are also highlighted. A platform displays the labor saving devices for the home of the 1890's and early 20th century.

Science Activities

- Gather students around the cross-section of the tree at the back of the hall.

Discuss how we keep track of our age (birthdays, physical growth and development). Explain to students that every year a tree changes physically just like we do.

Tell students, "We can count the number of rings to discover how old a tree was when it died." Have the students make estimates of how old the tree was (by looking at the rings).

Ask students, "What would happen if all the trees were cut down?"

Social Science Activities

- Have students look at the technology in the American History Hall (the lamp, the car, and the phone).

Have students discuss the way that these things are the same or different today. For instance, have students act out dialing on a rotary phone and then have them act out dialing on a cell phone.

Language Arts Activities

- Gather students in front of the living room scene.

Ask students to identify what is in the scene.

Talk with students about how this living room looks the same or different from their living room or home today.

These activities support the following 1st Grade California State Standards:

Science

Investigation and Experimentation 4b: Record observations and data with pictures, numbers, or written statements.

Social Science

1.4: Students compare and contrast everyday life in different times and places around the world and recognize that some aspects of people, places, and things change over time while others stay the same.

Language Arts

Reading Comprehension 2.6: Relate prior knowledge to textual information.