

Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

Garland Hall of American History, Grade 2

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

- Have students gather around the yellow reaper.

Ask students what they think this machine was used for. (A reaper picked grain crops.)

Ask students how they think this machine worked.

Social Science Activities

- Show students the trolley and the car.

Ask students if they see these vehicles on the street today.

Have students compare and contrast these vehicles with modes of transportation today. Discuss passenger capacity, safety issues, speed, etc.)

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. Ask students, "What do you have in your home that is missing from this diorama?" (e.g. phone charger, PSP, etc.)

These activities support the following 2nd Grade California State Standards:

Science

Physical Science 1d: Students know tools and machines are used to apply pushes and pulls (forces) to make things move.

Social Science

2.1: Students differentiate between things that happened long ago and things that happened yesterday.

Language Arts

Literature Response 3.1: Compare and contrast plots, settings, and characters presented by different authors.