

Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

Garland Hall of American History, Grade 3

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.

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.)

Social 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.

Discuss how the reaper has helped farmers grow crops and earn more money.

VAPA Activities

- Show students the trolley. Have students sit in front of the trolley and name parts of the machine.

As students identify parts of the trolley, have them act out that part of the machine. For example: when a student identifies a wheel, they crouch into a ball to represent a wheel.

These activities support the following 3rd Grade California State Standards:

Language Arts

Listening and Speaking 1.2: Connect and relate prior experiences, insights, and ideas to those of a speaker.

Social Science

3.5: Students demonstrate basic economic reasoning skills and an understanding of the economy of the local region.

VAPA - Dance

2.1 Create and perform complex improvised movement patterns, dance sequences, and studies.