

Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

Garland Hall of American History, Grade 4

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.

Social Science Activities

- Gather students in front of the reaper and ask, "How did machines like this help California become an agricultural power?"

Tell students, "We are the breadbasket of the United States. What does that mean to you when you look at this machine?"

Language Arts Activities

- Gather students in front of the tree cross-section.

Remind students of the definitions of: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and personification.

Have students turn to a partner and create one example of each type of figurative language about the tree cross-section.

Simile example: "This tree is as round as an orange."

Metaphor example: "This tree is a wheel turning in time."

Hyperbole example: "This tree is so big it can fill the Coliseum."

Personification example: "That is a wise tree."

VAPA Activities

- Have students make a short skit about daily life that would occur in the living room diorama.

These activities support the following 4th Grade California State Standards:

Social Science

4.4: Students explain how California became an agricultural and industrial power, tracing the transformation of the California economy and its political and cultural development since the 1850s.

Language Arts

Literature Response 3.5: Define figurative language (e.g., simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification) and identify its use in literary works.

VAPA - Theatre

2.0: Students apply processes and skills in acting, directing, designing, and script writing to create formal and informal theatre, film/videos, and electronic media productions and to perform in them.