

# The First Peoples of Canada



## *School Program Teacher Overview* *Canadian Museum of Civilization*

### **Introduction**

This program has been designed to provide an experience that will enhance your study of Canada's First Peoples. During their exploration of the historical and contemporary lives of the First Peoples of Canada, your students will:

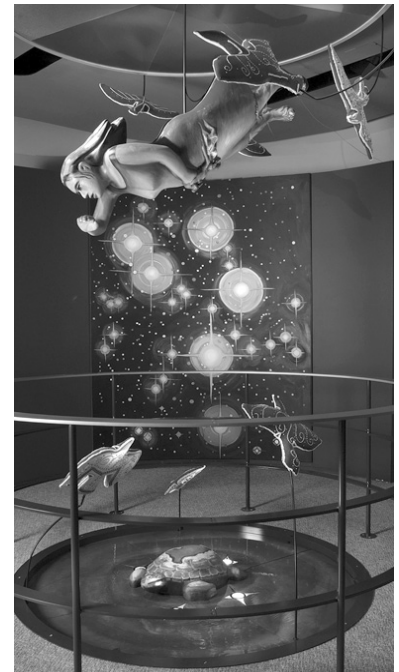
- divide into 4 teams;
- handle artifacts and take part in hands-on activities led by an Animator;
- use Activity Sheets to explore the First Peoples Hall, and
- learn about important topics such as the relationship of First Peoples to the environment, and their enduring cultural traditions.

### **Goals**

Our primary goal is to capture your students' imaginations and bring history and culture to life. In addition, this program actively supports your curriculum by fostering respect for, and awareness of, the traditions, values and contributions of First Peoples to Canadian society.

### **Program Content**

In the First Peoples Hall, your students will explore several galleries featuring cultural objects from many of Canada's First Peoples. They will discover the diversity of Canadian First Peoples from the Inuit to the Anishnaabe to the Mi'kmaq. Your students will also learn about aboriginal languages, listen to aboriginal voices, and handle authentic aboriginal artifacts as a means of learning to appreciate the depth and scope of Canada's First Peoples.



### **Duration, Times and Reservations**

- This program requires approximately 90 minutes to complete.
- Start times are 9:30 or 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 or 1:00 p.m.
- To make your reservation, please call Group Services at (819) 776-7014.

### **Grade Levels**

- Ontario — 3–8
- Québec — Cycle 2 to Secondary 2

### **Specific Learning Outcomes**

Through this program, students will learn that:

- First Peoples are very much part of the present world, having always adapted to changing circumstances and conditions in creative ways, without losing their sense of identity.
- First Peoples have made, and continue to make, outstanding contributions to Canadian society and the world.



- Although they are united as the First Peoples of Canada, Canada's aboriginal groups are vastly diverse in language, identity, and way of life.
- First Peoples share an ancient and ongoing relationship with the land.

## Curriculum Links

In order to support Ontario and Quebec curricula, this program has been tailored to enhance your classroom content. Specific curriculum links for some levels are outlined below.

### Ontario

**Grade 3** — Social Studies; Canada and World Connections — Urban and Rural Communities

- The possible relationships between communities and natural environments.
- The possible similarities and differences among people, places, and environments.

**Grade 5** — Social Studies; Heritage and Citizenship — Early Civilizations

- The ways in which the natural environment shaped the cultures of various early civilizations.
- How people in early civilizations met their physical and social needs.
- How the knowledge developed by early civilizations has affected modern society.

**Grade 6** — Social Studies; Heritage and Citizenship — Aboriginal Peoples and European Explorers

- The impact of the environment on Canada's aboriginal cultures.
- The social, political, and economic issues facing aboriginal peoples in Canada today.

**Grade 8** – Geography – Patterns in Human Geography

- Patterns of human settlement and factors that influence the population distribution and land use.

### Quebec

**Cycles 2 and 3** — Social Sciences; Geography, History and Citizenship Education

- Competency 1: understanding the organization of a society and its territory.
- Competency 2: interpretation of changes in a society and its territory.
- Competency 3: awareness of the diversity of societies and their territories.

**Secondary 1** – General Geography

- Module 4 : elements of physical geography
- Module 5 : elements of human geography

**Secondary 2** – General History

- Module 1 : history and the materials of history

## Preparing Your Class

We advise briefing your class ahead of time and dividing it into 4 groups before you arrive. You may also want to consider some of the following pre-visit activities:

- Explore the Museum online at [www.civilization.ca](http://www.civilization.ca).
- Research and discuss a number of aboriginal cultures across Canada, paying particular attention to variations in identifying names, the variety of traditional and contemporary ways of life, and the different environments in which they live.

## Post-Visit Activities

To reinforce the themes of this program, you may want to consider some of these follow-up activities back in the classroom:

- Divide your students into groups, each with a member from the teams you had during your Museum visit (i.e., each group should have at least one student from Teams A, B, C, and D). Using their Activity Sheets as a reminder, ask students to find out what the other students saw and learned during their visit. What things were similar? Different?
- Assign a project to each of these groups. Each group will research a specific aboriginal community, looking at its language, artistic traditions, and past and present ways of life. Make sure you cover all of Canada: one team could study the Coast Salish people in the Vancouver area, another the Peigan people of southern Alberta, still another the Mohawk people in the Oka area, for example.
- Ask your students to talk to their grandparents or other elderly people, and have them tell you a story about their traditions. Ask them whether these are traditions that have been passed down to them directly. Ask if they can share their traditions orally with their classmates.

## Evaluation

In order to ensure that our programs remain helpful and relevant to your curriculum and to your students, we encourage all teachers to send in a post-program evaluation. Evaluation forms will be provided onsite, and we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to provide us with important feedback on your Museum experience.