



Chat and Explore with a Museum Expert 2013-14

Lesson Guide

Grade Level:
3rd-8th

Subject Areas:
Science and
Language Arts

**WI Model Academic
Standards:**
Science Inquiry
A.4.1-5, C.4.1-2

Science Performance
G.8.1

Language Arts
Oral
C.4.3; C.8.2-3

Research and Inquiry
F.4.1; F.8.1

**Common Core State
Standards:**
English Language Arts-
Speaking and Listening
CCSS.ELA-SL.4.1

Science and Technical
CCSS.ELA.Literacy.RST.
6-8.9

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Overview:

Students and their teachers connect with Museum experts in this interactive, inquiry-based, theater experience. Museum educators utilize videoconference technologies to take participants behind the scenes and experience the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) through the eyes of curators, exhibit artists and other experts. Audiences engage our experts in a discussion and exploration of their research and its relevance to topics in our community today. Among the experts for this school year are a geologist, biologist, herpetologist, archaeologist, taxidermist, astronomer and collections manager. Through the programming students will learn about careers, and build appreciation for the stories behind our artifacts and exhibits, and increase in understanding of the Museum as a resource for unique content.

Background:

The MPM has more than 4.5 million artifacts and specimens in the departments of Anthropology, History, Botany, Invertebrate Zoology, Vertebrate Zoology and Geology. These collections form the basis for all of our research, exhibits and educational programs. The MPM, one of the largest museums in the United States, is an institution of human and natural history. It is from this intersection of history and science that we educate, explore, discover and preserve the world and its people. Our award-winning distance learning program links the technology and unique behind-the-scenes access possible via the videoconference format with an authentic, on-site experience utilizing the Museum's artifacts, specimens and immersive galleries.

Focus Question:

Who works at the Milwaukee Public Museum and what do they do? Why are they important to the Museum and to you?

Student Objectives:

1. Build understanding and appreciation for Museum collections, exhibits, research and Museum careers.
2. Experience their community and world through the eyes of Museum experts in human history and natural science.
3. Become empowered in the Museum through a dynamic interactive theater experience where they discover rich untold stories that they hold and pass on.
4. Meet, chat, explore and work side-by-side with a Museum expert.

Assessment:

1. Students will be able to explain what a geologist, biologist, herpetologist, archaeologist, taxidermist, astronomer or a collection managers does at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

2. Students will be able to understand and interpret specific Museum exhibits through authentic research that they experienced and learned about from a Museum expert.
3. Students will travel through the Museum in search of new stories.
4. Teachers are provided a post-visit assessment using a focus question in a short essay.

Program Vocabulary:

Archaeology: The scientific study of material remains of past humans life and activities.

Astronomy: The branch of science that deals with celestial objects, space, and the physical universe as a whole.

Biology: The scientific study of life.

Collections Manager: A person who cares for and manages collections.

Geology: A science that deals with the history of the earth and its life especially as recorded in rocks.

Herpetology: The branch of zoology concerned with reptiles and amphibians.

Taxidermy: The art of preparing, stuffing, and mounting the skins of animals with lifelike effect.

Enrichment Vocabulary:

Adaptations	Anthropology	Artifact	Collection
Cultural	Curator	Entomology	Fossils
Geographical Shaping	Indicators	Paleontology	Primary Resource

Procedure:

Meet at the Gromme Theater located next to the elevators on the Museum’s first floor. Plan to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to your program start time.

At the end of the theater portion of the program MPM educators will provide chaperones and teachers with an *Expedition MPM* guide to enable students to extend their experience to exhibits relevant to the program topic. A post-visit assessment will be provided in which students write a short, persuasive essay in response to a question provided that draws on their museum experience.