

Field Trip Overview

Teachers:

We are looking forward to your visit to the Harbor History Museum and we are glad to welcome you and your students to experience the heritage of the greater peninsula communities!

As you move through the museum you will visit the Native Gallery, the Permanent Gallery, the Special Exhibits Gallery, the Maritime Gallery, and the Midway Schoolhouse. Your students will not only learn history, but also about how people study history.

We hope the following information will help you prepare your class for their field trip, but don't hesitate to contact us with any questions: education@harborhistorymuseum.org.

You can start with [A short video about the Harbor History Museum](#)

Land Acknowledgement:

The Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society acknowledges that the Harbor History Museum stands on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish indigenous peoples, specifically the *sx̣'əbabš* band of the Puyallup Tribe. We are honored to share stewardship of this ancient place and to share the stories that have defined the *tx̣'aałqəł* site over time.

[Find out more about the Puyallup Tribe](#)

The HHM Galleries

Permanent Galleries

In the permanent galleries a docent will guide your students in exploring our collection.

What is an artifact? An artifact is a three-dimensional object made or used by people. You'll find many throughout our galleries, representing the history of the greater Gig Harbor area. As you explore, ask your students which artifacts they find the most interesting. What stories do they tell? How do the artifacts, images, text, and other pieces help explain the history of a certain place and time? Be sure to ask our gallery guides any questions you might have!

[Find out more about the permanent galleries](#)

Midway Schoolhouse

In the Midway schoolhouse your students will experience a school day in 1915 with a costumed historical interpreter.

Our schoolhouse was built in 1893 and operated until 1941. In 2009 it was moved to Harbor History Museum and restored. Ask your students, do you know anything about life 100+ years ago? What do you want to find out? Look for what is different and what is the same between school then and now. The first schools in Gig Harbor educated the children of Native women who married non-Native men, immigrants from Europe, and settlers from other parts of North

America. As you go through the schoolhouse, think about how different kinds of children may have experienced school.

[Find out more about the schoolhouse](#)

Maritime Gallery

In the Maritime Gallery your students will get up-close to a historic fishing boat undergoing restoration.

The *Shenandoah* was built in 1925 here in Gig Harbor and two different families used it as a fishing boat. Tony Janovich donated *Shenandoah* to the museum in 2000. Students will see the crew working to restore and conserve the ship. Conserving the ship means keeping its original parts. Restoring the ship means making it look like it originally did. Since the *Shenandoah* will not go back in the water and is used to help people learn, our crew is conserving some parts and restoring others. Feel free to ask the crew questions about the boat and their work!

[Find out more about the *Shenandoah*](#)

Special Exhibition Gallery

You never know what you'll see in this gallery – check it out and look for any special activities that go with the exhibit!

[Find out what's on display!](#)

Outside

Outside the museum you will see several large artifacts as you walk around the building.

We encourage you to visit Donkey Creek and Austin Park at *tx^waalqəł* Estuary. *tx^waalqəł* means “place where game exists” in Lushootseed, the language of the Puyallup people. This is the site where the *sx^wəbabš*, “the swift water people,” lived before Euro-American settlers came to the area. Be sure to listen to the voice box to hear messages in Lushootseed.

[Find out more about the estuary area](#)

Before Your Visit

Pre-Visit Discussion Questions for Your Class:

- What do you know about museums?
- Have you been to a museum before? If so, what was it like?
- How should we behave in a museum?
- What do you know about the history of this area?
- What do you want to find out about the history of this area?
- How do people find out about the past?
- What are you looking forward to seeing at HHM? (Revisit these answers after your visit!)

History Detective Warm-up Activity:

What Sources do Historians Use?

This activity will help your students understand the different sources of information historians use to try to piece together the stories of the past. (Please see the downloadable Pre-Visit Activity pdf and/or the slideshow).

During Your Visit

We will greet you at the door and lead you back to our Resource Room. You will leave your coats, backpacks, and lunches here and have a short orientation. Your guides will take you through the rest of your day. You will eat lunch either in the Resource Room or outside on our picnic tables. Our typical field trip runs 10am – 2pm.

Challenge!

While you explore Harbor History Museum...

- Can you find an artifact in the Native Gallery that was discovered near the museum?
- Why is this “excellent little bay” called “Gig” Harbor?
- What was Galloping Gertie and why is it important?
- How many ship’s steering wheels can you find in the museum?
- How many new words can you learn?

After Your Visit

Post-Visit Discussion Questions

- What were some of the artifacts you saw today? What was interesting about them?
- What surprised you?
- What new things did you learn or find out more about?
- Who were some people you learned about?
- Did you notice certain jobs, technologies, ways of life, etc. change over time?
- What aspects of life have been important to this area through time?
- Can you think of any examples of cause and effect you learned about today?
- Can you think of any examples of events or situations where people might have different perspectives?
- What did you learn about from the past that still affects our life today?
- What do you want to find out more about?
- Do you want to visit more museums in the future?