

Pre-Visit and Post-Visit
Resource Package

Guided School Tours



Developed by the Fort St. John
North Peace Museum

9323 100 Street
250-787-0430
fsjnpmuseum@fsjmail.com

Program Description

During this hour long tour (30 minutes for pre-school and kindergarten), your students will learn about the history of Fort St. John from 10,500 year old Charlie Lake Cave through the fur trade and development of the North Peace to today.

Program Options

This program can be tailored to highlight various topics your class is studying. Options include (but are not limited to):

- Agriculture/Farming
- Businesses/Development of a Town
- Construction of the Alaska Highway
- First World War (temporary exhibit 2014-2018)
- Fur Trade
- Pioneering the Peace
- Technology
- Transportation

The Fort St. John North Peace Museum also has a collection of videos on a wide variety of topics which are available for viewing along with your tour to emphasize certain topics your class is studying. Please contact us for more information.

Booking a Tour

Please contact Heather Longworth at the Fort St. John North Peace Museum to book or customize a tour or if you have any questions. Tours can be booked by calling 250-787-0430 or emailing fsjnpmuseum@fsjmail.com. Please book your guided tours two weeks in advance to avoid disappointment and have a second date and time in mind in case your first choice isn't available.

Preparing for Your Visit

There are several things you can do to help your class visit run smoothly. Before arriving at the museum, please organize your class into groups of approximately five students. Each group (grade three and under) must be accompanied by a teacher or adult supervisor. Adult supervisors are recommended for older grades as well but are not mandatory. Please encourage adult supervisors to stay with their groups throughout the guided tour and assist with keeping order amongst students. Please ask adult supervisors to wait until the end of the tour to ask questions of personal interest and to not attempt to lead the tour themselves. They are there to help facilitate learning between the tour guide and the students.

Jackets, backpacks, food, and water bottles can be stored in the museum's kitchen for the duration of the tour. Please be on time for the guided tour. If your bus is running late, please call the museum at 250-787-0430 to make us aware of the situation.

Location

The Fort St. John North Peace Museum is located at 9323 100th Street right next to Centennial Park. We are west of the Pomeroy Sports Centre and north of Canadian Tire and the Esso Station.

Program Outline

Introduction

Staff will welcome students to the museum and introduce tour guides. Staff will establish guidelines for the guided tours with the help of students and explain why we don't touch most of the artefacts. Each group of students will be assigned a tour guide and will follow that tour guide into the museum to the exhibit where they will begin their tour.

Tour

Each tour guide will lead his/her group around the museum. Tours will likely not cover every display in the museum and some tours may include the outside buildings in late spring or early fall. Each tour guide will make every effort to emphasize the topic your class is studying (if specified). Each tour guide has developed a unique way of sharing the history of the North Peace. He/she may pick up artefacts and show them to students, ask students questions, and share history through stories and photographs. Students are encouraged to ask questions about topics or artefacts that interest them, to place themselves in the position of pioneers, and to share brief stories of their own.

Conclusion

Each tour will wrap up after an hour and students can ask any final questions at that point. Students are encouraged to come back and see more with their families. Students will gather up their belongings and head outside to their arranged transportation. During warmer months, classes are welcome to have a snack or lunch in the museum's yard or head next door to Centennial Park.

Payment

Payment can be made before or after the guided tour by cheque, cash, debit, Visa or Mastercard. You will be given a receipt and invoice statement for this payment. Arrangements can also be made to provide you with an invoice for your school to pay following your tour.

Optional Classroom Activities

Optional Pre-visit Activities

1. Discussion: What does a community museum do?

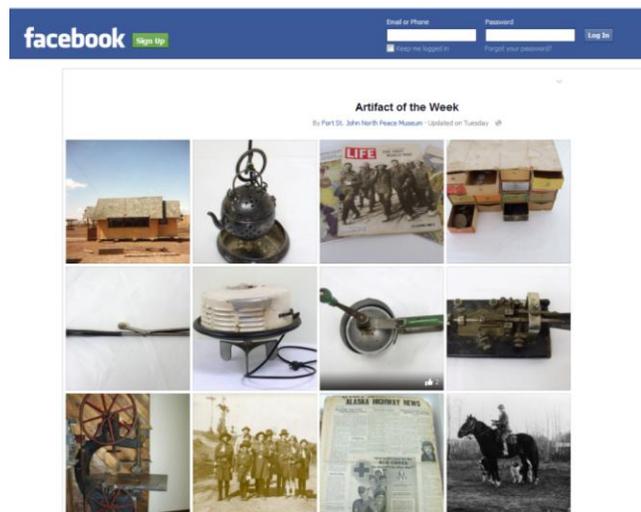
Community museums help people to explore collections of artefacts (objects, photographs, papers, and textiles) for inspiration, learning and enjoyment. They collect, preserve, and store artefacts from the region and make them available for the benefit of the community.

Questions to ask students:

- What would people see in a museum 100 years from now that document our lifestyle today?
- Why do museums take the time to collect other people's old stuff?
- Why do people go to museums?
- What kind of things do you expect to see in a community museum?
- If you had a museum about your own family, what items could be found inside?

Social media options (older grades)

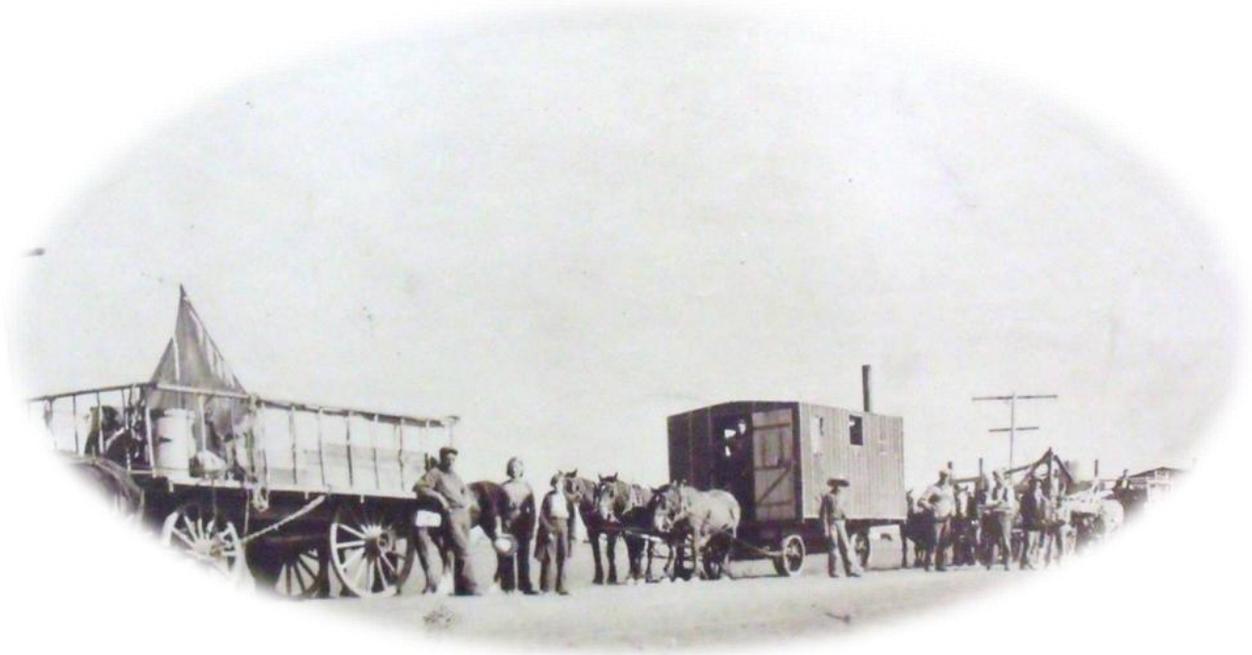
- Learn about some of the artefacts on the Fort St. John North Peace Museum's Facebook page (in the Artefact of the Week Album)
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.129092450502304.30945.102713059806910&type=3>
- Learn some of the decisions that go into adding objects to a museum's collection or displaying objects at the Fort St. John North Peace Museum's blog:
<http://fortstjohnmuseum.wordpress.com/>



2. Discussion & Sharing: Who called/calls Fort St. John home?

Fort St. John has been home to thousands of people over the years beginning with First Nations. Fur traders came from Europe and eastern Canada and lived in small posts while trading manufactured goods with First Nations. In 1912, the Peace River Block was open to homesteaders. People moved here to clear land and grow crops. As the community of Fort St. John grew, people came to live in the town as dentists, doctors, nurses, store keepers, mechanics, restaurateurs, hoteliers, etc. Once oil and natural gas were discovered in the North Peace, people came north to work on oil rigs and provide services to the oil and gas industry. There were many different ways of coming to Fort St. John – canoe, York boat, steamboat, wagon, horse, sleigh, automobile, and airplane.

What brought your family to Fort St. John? Are you a newcomer or has your family been here for generations? Have students research and share their story of why their families moved to Fort St. John (or if they've been here for generations). How did their families travel to come here?



Babcock and Lusk families arrive in the North Peace from Saskatchewan in 1932.

Optional Post-Visit Activities

Depending on what your class is studying, you may want to try some of these activities following your guided tour.

Art Ideas

1. Draw an animal, method of transportation, or artefact that you saw in the museum.
2. Use sea shells, pine cones, leaves etc to make your own fossil imprints or footprints in clay or plasticine.
3. Pretend you are working at the first fort ever built in this area – Rocky Mountain Fort. Paint a picture of your favorite scene to take home with you when you leave (such as the Peace River, a meadow, Taylor hills, fort, canoes on the river, animals in the woods, etc.) Remember, no one in your family has seen scenery like this before and cameras haven't been invented yet.



Language Arts & Social Studies Ideas

1. Write about the exhibit you liked the most. What do you think it would be like to live or work in that sort of place for a week? What would be different and interesting about it? How would it compare to the same type of building today?
2. Write a diary entry about coming to Fort St. John to be a farmer, nurse, doctor, or shop keeper. Imagine you come from a big city that has electricity and indoor plumbing. What is it like to cope without electricity, refrigeration, and indoor plumbing? How would you do laundry or take a bath? How would you keep your food cold? How would you see in the dark?
3. Describe what it would have been like to be on an Alaska Highway construction crew in 1942. (It took eight months to build the highway from Dawson Creek to Fairbanks, Alaska!) Consider the following: scenery, mountainous terrain, muddy roadbeds, huge insects, wildlife, homesickness, cold weather, etc.
4. Interview a grandparent or a senior citizen that you know. Ask him/her about his/her childhood. What was life like before television, computers, fast food, etc.? What was school like? What chores did he/she have to do? Compare your life to his/hers.

