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Way Out West is the story of resources and resourcefulness, individualism and collectivism. Ultimately, it is the story of migration, transformation, and the adventure home.

This exhibition unites the sciences and the humanities so that all who visit feel like they belong, can experience something familiar, and can open their minds to something new.

We want this exhibit to capture the imaginations and the interest of all who see it. Complexities of our past and the diversity of Idaho’s background lead learners on a search for historical truth. Students should walk away feeling that they play a part in the unique set of circumstances that make Idaho, Idaho, and establish a deeper, meaningful connection to the people and events in this region that tie to the people and events in communities across the world.
In this guide, you will find lessons on a variety of topics and geared towards a variety of age groups. Although there are suggestions for intended grade level, each lesson can be adapted to fit your specific group of students.

At the Museum of Idaho, we believe that STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) can combine with history, literacy, and art to make learning experiences more meaningful and fun, so many of these lessons mix one or more subject areas.

Each lesson includes Before Your Visit, During Your Visit, and After Your Visit components as well as lesson extensions, essential questions, goals, key words, and curriculum connections. Most of these lessons do not require a visit to the Museum of Idaho, but our collection of objects and exhibits will serve to enhance student learning.
Background:
Often, when we learn about our history, we only think back a few hundred years. What if we pushed ourselves to think back thousands of years? Millions of years? What might our landscape look like? Would the animals, plants, and humans be different? How might they be similar?

In this gallery of the Museum of Idaho’s exhibit, we have artifacts as old as 65+ million years old (tempskya fern fossil) and as young as 12,000 years old (Columbian mammoth). In these lessons, you’ll mix science and history to discover the past.

Suggested Lessons:
- Observation and Inference (K-2)
- What, Where, When, Why, “W.O.W!” (3-5)
- The Science of History (6-8)
- History Mystery: Reading Artifacts (9-12)
Background:
Geology is more than just rocks! It is a force that shapes our landscape and our people. Idaho is known as the “Gem State” but beyond the valuable gems that are found here, there are volcanos, minerals, and a story carved into the landscape just waiting to be told!

Suggested Lessons:
- My Pet Rock (K-2)
- Building Blocks (3-5)
  - Types of Rocks Presentation
- Bringing Fossils to Life! (6-8)
- Idaho’s Geologic Wonders (9-12)
Many people put down “roots” or find “routes” through Idaho because of its natural resources. Idaho is consistently in the top 5 states with the most public land, so animals, plants, and other wonders of the natural world can be seen here.

Suggested Lessons in this Gallery:

- **Oh Deer! Game (K-2)**
- **Aquifer Art (2-5)**
- **Idaho Natural Resources Bingo! (3-6)**
- **Animal Interactions (6-8)**
- **Wild Idaho (9-12)**
- Poisonous or Edible PowerPoint Presentation
The people and cultures of Idaho are rich and diverse. From the Native Peoples, to the settlers and immigrants that formed the foundation of our state, understanding the similarities and differences between us all can help to tie us together today.

Suggested Lessons in this Gallery:

- Packing for the Trip-Family Memories (K-2)
- What’s in a Sound (1-4)
- Explorers or Exploiters? (3-5)
- Sound Pictures (3-6)
- What is Fair? Land Use in the West (6-12)
Background:
People came to Idaho for many different reasons. Industry in Idaho ranges from potatoes, to nuclear physics. Through these industries, people were beckoned west and began to form a network of regional roots.

Suggested Lessons in this Gallery:

I Spy: Then and Now (K-4)

Re-photography Challenge (5-9)

Idaho’s Forgotten Labor Strike (9-12)
At its root, the truth of history is complicated. Every story has more than one side. As students complete these lessons, they will be challenged to understand Idaho through the eyes of many different people. From uncovering what it means to be an historian to following Idaho’s road to statehood, this gallery helps students to put aside their biases and think critically.

Suggested Lessons in this Gallery:

- Idaho Experiences-We Are Different and the Same (K-2)
- Idaho’s Symbols-What Symbols define you? (3-5)
- Women in the West (6-8)
- Who Are We as a State? (9-12)
Background:
The complex relationship between the individualistic nature of people here, and the community minded needs of those same people, is highlighted through objects that embody Idaho’s innovative minds.
Idaho represents more than potatoes, it represents opportunity.

Suggested Lessons in this Gallery:

- My Idaho Impact (K-2)
- Famous Idahoans Dinner Party (3-5)
- Idaho’s Future (Problem Solving) (6-12)
• **Return to the Ice Age** — A compressive look at the Ice Age through the context of the La Brea Tar Pits in California. Great explanation of the fossilization process and information about the Colombian Mammoth.

• **Idaho Songs Project** — An annotated bibliography of songs that has the purpose of finding, interpreting and preserving songs written before the radio era (before 1923) about Idaho’s early people, places and events.

• **Jackson Hole Historical Society & Museum** — Great information about the Wind River Treaty and agreements between the Eastern Shoshones and the United States.

• **Short-Handled Hoe & Bracero History** — This Smithsonian lesson (intended grade range: 9-12) revolves around the short-handled hoe, the bracero program, Cesar Chavez and the organizing of Latino farm workers in the American southwest after World War II.

• **Idaho LGBTQ Oral History Project** — Boise State University project that was designed as an interactive learning tool to help students understand LGBTQ history, with special emphasis on Idaho history, and the impacts of this history on local individuals.

• **Aristocrat in Burlap** — A history of the potato in Idaho. — “Although natural history has greatly affected the Idaho potato industry, the vision, the decisions, and the hard work of thousands of people have, in the end, made possible the establishment, growth, promotion and the future of the industry.”

• **Our Private Idaho** — “Travel to Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Once the epicenter of the Aryan Nations’ white-supremacy movements, Coeur d’Alene has nearly doubled in population in the last two decades and although the percentage of nonwhite residents is gradually increasing, it’s still tiny at 5.5 percent.”

• **SITES Community** — “Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service is proud to offer a wide range of distance learning resources and activities. Our offerings include links to exhibition-specific Smithsonian Learning Labs, which are a destination for millions of carefully curated and easily accessible open educational resources.”
LESSONS BY GRADE

GRADE K-2:

Observation and Inference (K-2)
My Pet Rock (K-2)
Oh Deer! Game (K-2)
Packing for the Trip-Family Memories (K-2)
Idaho Experiences - We Are Different and the Same (K-2)
My Idaho Impact (K-2)

GRADE K-4:

I Spy: Then and Now (K-4)
What’s in a Sound (1-4)

GRADE 3-6:

What, Where, When, Why, “W.O.W!” (3-5)
Building Blocks (3-5)
-Types of Rocks Presentation
Idaho Natural Resources Bingo! (3-6)
Explorers or Exploiters? (3-5)
Sound Pictures (3-6)
Idaho’s Symbols-What Symbols define you? (3-5)
Famous Idahoans Dinner Party (3-5)

GRADE 5-9:

Re-photography Challenge (5-9)
LESSONS BY GRADE

GRADE 6-12:

The Science of History (6-8)
Bringing Fossils to Life! (6-8)
Animal Interactions (6-8)
Women in the West (6-8)

GRADE 6-12:

What is Fair? Land Use in the West (6-12)
Idaho’s Future (Problem Solving) (6-12)

GRADE 9-12:

History Mystery: Reading Artifacts (9-12)
Idaho’s Geologic Wonders (9-12)
Wild Idaho (9-12)
-Poisonous or Edible PowerPoint Presentation
Idaho’s Forgotten Labor Strike (9-12)
Who Are We as a State? (9-12)