

Autumn Rieger
Milwaukee Public Museum Interactive Display

North American Indian Exhibit

The exhibit I chose to concentrate on is the North American Indian exhibit.

The current exhibit covers a wide range of Native American's that have contributed to the different regions in our country. The one thing I noticed each tribe had in common was their way of life represented by hobbies and recreation. I chose to focus on Native American hobbies and recreation because there are so many hand-on activities that can engage students, while enhancing the current exhibit through workshops.

With an additional \$1500 this exhibit can expand by offering opportunities for student groups, such as schools, scout groups and day camps, by providing activities and crafts students can participate in. This area of the exhibit would be called, "A Day in the Life of a North American Indian". The workshop will have activities that appeal to different students and give them the opportunity to test their skills at archery, while using their creativity to make baskets and moccasins. Smaller groups, such as, camps and scouts can sign-up to spend the night in tee-pee, while listening to local stories.

Students will have the opportunity to weave a basket just like the Wisconsin Woodland Indians did. The Woodland Indians used integrated colors in their weaving to create beautiful baskets for collecting fruits and vegetables. Completed baskets can be taken home as a souvenir. Students will also have the opportunity to make their own pair of moccasins. Native Americans used colored beads and leather to create footwear. Working with leather and stringing small beads can be difficult. Students will have the opportunity to experience first-hand the time and effort put into making a pair of shoes

(moccasins) that were vital to protecting Native Americans feet, while walking in harsh and treacherous areas of North America.

Students will have the opportunity to use a real wooden bow and arrow. Native American's relied on bows and arrows for hunting. It is not as easy as it looks and requires arm strength. Students can test their skill at shooting a turkey 20 feet away and 50 feet away. Lastly, smaller groups, such as scout groups and camp groups can sign-up to sleep overnight in a 15 foot teepee. Teepees were used as shelter for Native Americans and were convenient for them because they were easy to take down and put back up when Indians had to move from place to place each season. Students who spend the night will also get the opportunity to listen to stories about local Wisconsin Indians that once roamed the lands. What are the differences between the Potawatomi, Menomonee, Ho-Chunk, Fox and Sauk tribes?

The "Day in the Life of a North American Indian" exhibit workshop focuses on the following social studies threads:

Geography: A.6.4

History: B.6.2, B.6.9, B.6.10

Behavioral Science: E.6.3, E.6.4, E.6.11

Teachers can use local tribes that still exist today as a resource for expanding on some of the activities. Representatives from each tribe provide educational discussions and lessons. Pow-Wows are still performed in many communities across Wisconsin's.

Teachers can take a field trip to visit the Oneida tribe's Pow-Wow when it is performed at UWM and UW-Parkside, which takes place annually.

