

Mountain Man Education Trunk

Teacher Info: Curriculum Overview

The Wyoming State Museum is extremely excited for you to try out this new and improved curriculum. This overview will tell you what to expect within each section of the curriculum. The following pages will dive deeper into each activity. Some of these sections can even be completed before you receive the trunk or after you send it back.

- **Section 1: Louisiana Purchase and Lewis and Clark Expedition**
This introduction lesson teaches students how the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition were instrumental to creating the mountain men. These activities focus on reading comprehension and vocabulary.
- **Section 2: Exploring History through Artifacts**
This activity allows students to get hands on with one mountain man artifact, analyze it, and determine what it would have been used for. This activity utilizes group work and critical thinking.
- **Section 3: How Mountain Men Trapped Beavers**
This activity is two parts worksheets and one part classroom discussion. Your students will use independent research to learn about the American beaver and figure out the steps that mountain men used to trap beavers. Then, you'll use a couple of the trunk's artifacts to teach your students more about this topic.
- **Section 4: Creating a Mountain Man**
In this fun activity, your students will create their own mountain man. They'll name him, choose his country of origin, give him abilities and skills, and dress him. You will also have a classroom discussion about mountain man clothes, showing the clothes from the trunk. This activity cannot be skipped if you're doing Section 5 or 6.
- **Section 5: A Year in the Life of a Mountain Man**
This is the main activity of the entire trunk. Students will go through 22 "encounters" with their mountain man, led by you. You will utilize cards (created by the museum) to easily walk your students through different good and bad things that happened to mountain men while trapping. Their mountain man abilities and skills will help them survive and thrive.
- **Section 6: Mountain Man Rendezvous**
After their first year in the mountains, your students will use mathematics to determine how many beavers they obtained, and how much money they're worth. Then, they'll go through the rendezvous store, purchasing items they'll need for their next year in the Rocky Mountains.
- **Section 7: Mountain Man Tall Tales**
Finally, your students will use writing skills to create tall tales about their mountain man's experience in the mountains, during their first year.

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Teacher Info: Exploring History through Artifacts

Section 2: Exploring History through Artifacts

This section allows students to get hands on with one artifact from the education trunk. They will do small group work, handle artifacts, draw pictures, and use critical thinking to hypothesize about what one artifact from the mountain man time period was used for.

- Activity 1: Exploring History through Artifacts

- Part 1: “Exploring History through Artifacts” Worksheet

Students should be placed in small groups, and each given a copy of the worksheet. You can print this document from the “Mountain Man Trunk” page of the Wyoming State Museum website or photocopy it from the “Student Worksheets” section of this book. Then, give each group one artifact from the trunk. Make sure you pick a fun, unusual, or interesting artifact. They will work through the worksheet, answering questions, discussing with their partners, drawing pictures, and thinking about this time period.

It is important to note, that you do not need to tell the students if their hypotheses are correct or not... at this point. It is also advised to NOT show the students the artifacts from the other groups’ tables. Every student will see every artifact (and learn what they were used for) as we go through the following activities.

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Exploring History through Artifacts

Definition of *Artifact*:

An object that was made or used by humans, and is of cultural or historical interest.

Description of the Artifact:

1. What material(s) is the artifact made from?

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bone | <input type="checkbox"/> Stone | <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pottery | <input type="checkbox"/> Leather | <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metal | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Material |

2. Measure the artifact. What is its length, width, and height?

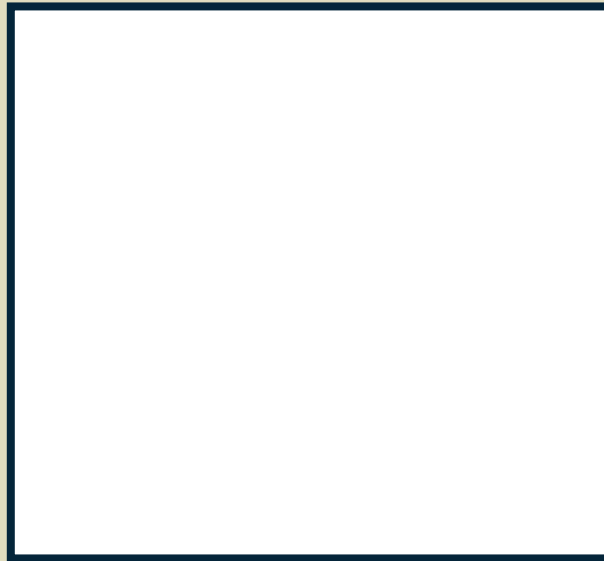
3. Describe how the artifact looks and feels. For example: What is its shape? What does its texture feel like? What color is it? What does it smell like? How heavy does it feel? Does it have any moving parts? What else is interesting about the artifact?

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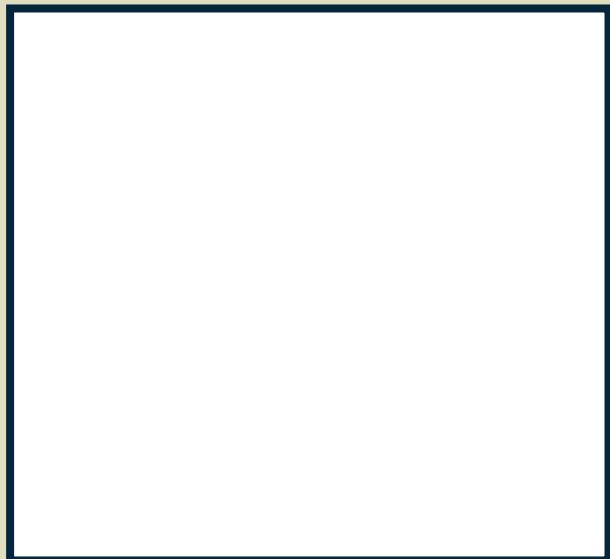
Exploring History through Artifacts

4. Is there anything written, printed, or stamped on the artifact?

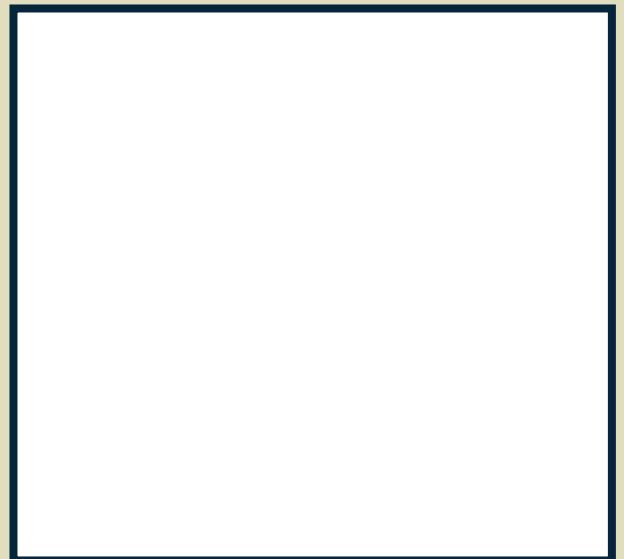
5. Draw and color three pictures of the artifact, one picture for the top, one for the bottom, and one for the side.



Picture from Top of Artifact



Picture from Bottom of Artifact



Picture from Side of Artifact

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Uses of the Artifact:

1. How do you think the artifact was used?

2. Who do you think might have used the artifact?

3. When do you think the artifact was used?

4. Can you name a similar item that is used today?

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Exploring History through Artifacts

5. What does the artifact tell you about technology at this point in time?

6. What does the artifact tell you about the lives of the people that made or used it?

7. What are some questions you have about the artifact or things you want to learn about it?
