



## General Tour

The Bennington Museum is looking forward to your class visit! You may wish to make connections in your classroom to the things your students experience at the museum. Below are just a few ideas for pre- and post-visit activities that you could do with your class. If you have a great activity idea, and would like to share it with us, please contact Deana Mallory at [dmallory@benningtonmuseum.org](mailto:dmallory@benningtonmuseum.org), or call (802) 447-1571.

### Pre-visit activities

#### Make Predictions

Have your class make predictions about what they might see at The Bennington Museum. Write down their thoughts to look back on after your visit.

#### Visit the Web Site

If you have Internet access, have your students look at The Bennington Museum website at [www.benningtonmuseum.org](http://www.benningtonmuseum.org).

#### Talk About Terms

What does fragile mean? Rare? Use the enclosed Museum Vocabulary sheet to learn some common museum terms.

#### How Old is Old?

Help your students understand the distant past by making timelines. Many of the things they will see and learn about at The Bennington Museum date back to the 1700's. Have the class make a timeline of events they have learned about, going back to the Revolutionary War. Talk about life in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Did they have cars? Electricity? Televisions?

#### Rules

Talk with your students about what rules they might be expected to follow when they get to the museum. We'll talk about this with them, of course, but they could make predictions about what rules we'll ask them to follow, based on what they expect to see and do while they're here.

75 Main Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201  
tel 802. 447. 1571  
fax 802. 442. 8305  
[www.benningtonmuseum.org](http://www.benningtonmuseum.org)

## **Post-visit Activities**

### **Make Predictions (part two)**

Revisit the class' predictions about the museum. Were their predictions accurate? Did they see or do anything they didn't expect to?

### **Reflection**

Review some of the major points made during the tour. Can they recall the purpose of museums? What kinds of things they saw? What type of things The Bennington Museum collects? What were some of their favorite things from the visit?

### **Reading Labels**

During their visit, the students learned that labels help them understand objects – what they are, how old they are, what they are made of, why they are important, etc. Extend this into the school. Where do they find labels in their classroom and in the rest of the school? What are the purposes of the labels? Create a label-reading scavenger hunt. Discuss other places where people encounter labels: foods, medicines, directional signs, etc.

### **Start a Class Collection**

The students saw collections at the museum and may have talked about some of their own collections. Now you can start a class collection. What will you collect? What is the purpose for collecting it? How will you preserve it? What will people learn about your class from the collection? Put the class collection on display and invite other classes in to see it.

### **Create a Class Museum**

The Bennington Museum collects and preserves items that teach people about Vermont and regional history. Your classroom museum could highlight items that reflect its own history. Throughout the year, collect items that hold significance to your class. Have students make labels and displays. Write a "mission statement" for your museum. Toward the end of the year, invite other classes, families, etc. to visit your museum.



# MUSEUM VOCABULARY

Find out the meanings of these words before your visit to The Bennington Museum.

**Fragile** \_\_\_\_\_

Use it in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Rare** \_\_\_\_\_

Use it in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Gallery** \_\_\_\_\_

Use it in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Artifact** \_\_\_\_\_

Use it in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Preserve** \_\_\_\_\_

Use it in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Label** \_\_\_\_\_

Use it in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Display** \_\_\_\_\_

Use it in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit** \_\_\_\_\_

Use it in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

See you at the Museum!

