



Welcome to the World Wildlife-Heritage Museum

About the World Wildlife Heritage Museum

The World Wildlife Heritage Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to K–12 education, with a primary focus on environmental conservation, wildlife protection, and sustainability. Through its educational programs and exhibits, the museum aims to inspire the next generation to understand, appreciate, and protect the natural world.

Our Mission

The World Wildlife-Heritage Museum presents an authentic view of wildlife across all seven continents of our world while also exploring the rich cultural history of these regions and the expansion of the American West. Our mission is to provide an immersive and educational experience that connects the natural world, human history, and the ongoing challenges of environmental conservation.

Our History

Our history began when a young Albert D. Seeno Jr. was brought by his father into a memorable restaurant adorned with animal taxidermy, and a dream took root. Captivated by how a space could transport and inspire, he imagined a place of his own—one that would spark the same sense of wonder in others. An avid outdoorsman with a deep interest in history and world adventure, Mr. Seeno spent years collecting artifacts, each piece a testament to the extraordinary story of our natural world and the civilizations that have shaped it. Starting as a hand-drawn sketch on a piece of butcher paper at his kitchen table, his dream grew through years of meticulous planning and partnership with the Board of Directors into what is now known as the World Wildlife-Heritage Museum.

Museum Exhibit Highlights

- Wildlife from all seven continents
- Art and artifacts from various world cultures
- Life-size recreations of historical locations from different time periods
- Interactive touchscreens and immersive exhibits connecting science, culture, and conservation

Tour Information

Overview

All museum tours are led by museum staff members or trained docents. Tours typically last two hours. All tours are free of charge. During the tour, museum staff or docents guide students through each section of the museum, allowing students to see the full range of exhibits and collections. When planning a museum visit, teachers and educators have two options to choose from: a general tour or a specialized tour. General tours aim to give equal attention to all areas of the museum, while specialized tours tend to focus on a single theme or one section of the museum in particular. While all tours show the museum exhibits and collections in their entirety, specialized tours can offer a more pronounced educational scope. As such, tour guides for specialized tours can provide content most relevant to the chosen topic.

Approach

Rather than providing a one-size-fits-all experience, all our tours are adapted to the age, background knowledge, curriculum goals, and learning objectives of the visiting group. While the exhibits remain the same, the content of the tour—vocabulary, questions, activities, and discussion topics—is adjusted to meet the academic and developmental needs of students. While all tours combine guided interpretation with close observation of artifacts, specimens, and exhibits, museum educators may incorporate different exercises depending on age group, such as inquiry-based discussion, hands-on activities, object analysis, guided note-taking, worksheets, roleplay exercises, or scavenger hunts. Please see below how we differentiate our tours according to grade level:

Elementary School

Tours for elementary school students emphasize observation, exploration, and open-ended inquiry. Students are encouraged to closely examine artifacts, ask questions, identify details, and make connections between objects and everyday life. Interactive discussion, guided discovery, movement-based activities, and age-appropriate worksheets help students build foundational historical, cultural, and scientific understanding while remaining actively engaged with the exhibits.

Middle School

Tours place greater emphasis on inquiry, interpretation, and analysis. Students are encouraged to investigate causes and effects, compare perspectives, evaluate evidence, and discuss broader historical and cultural themes. Activities and worksheets may ask students to gather information, make observations, roleplay, draw conclusions, and connect museum content to larger concepts being studied in the classroom.

High School

Tours focus on discussion, dialogue, and critical thinking. Students engage with complex questions, historical interpretation, multiple viewpoints, social systems, cultural change,

and contemporary relevance. These experiences can support advanced coursework in history, social science, anthropology, environmental science, and the arts.

Specialized Tour Subjects

The tours at World Wildlife-Heritage Museum are organized into six broad subject areas that provide a comprehensive overview of the museum's content, collections, and exhibits:

- World Wildlife
- World Cultures
- Prehistory
- Native Americans
- Westward Expansion
- Local History

Each subject area offers multiple entry points for classroom learning and can support a variety of instructional goals across grade levels and disciplines. Whether aligned with a current unit of study or used to enrich classroom learning, these collections provide opportunities to connect artifacts and specimens to broader themes that span history, social science, geography, environmental science, anthropology, and the arts.

Themes and Topics for Learning

For each of the subjects listed above, we have also identified specific themes and topics for learning. These themes and topics highlight some of the broad ideas presented and emphasized throughout the tour. Their goal is to promote conceptual thinking and serve as a bridge between the museum's collection, the classroom, and everyday life. These themes and topics can serve as springboards for discussion or lenses through which to explore a specific topic and make connections between different time periods or contexts. Some of these themes and topics are as follows:

- Adaptation and Survival
- Human Interaction with the Environment
- Conservation, Stewardship, and Resourcefulness
- Migration and Movement
- Evidence and Scientific Inquiry
- Culture and Identity
- Innovation and Technology
- Trade and Exchange
- Leadership and Decision-Making
- Historical Interpretation and Opposing Perspectives
- Extinction and Preservation

Specialized Tour Details

Each specialized tour draws upon specific exhibits and collections to explore particular subjects, themes, and topics. The outline below gives a brief description of the specialized tours and identifies their primary areas of focus.

World Wildlife - Explore the diversity of life on Earth through exhibits showcasing wildlife from around the world. Students investigate animal adaptations, habitats, biodiversity, and conservation while learning how living things survive and thrive in different environments. Students will encounter wildlife from:

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Oceania
- North America
- South America
- Africa
- The Arctic

World Cultures - Explore artifacts, traditions, and ways of life from cultures around the world. Students examine how people in different regions have adapted to their environments, expressed their beliefs, and developed unique customs while discovering connections that unite human societies. Students will examine:

- Native American Art and Artifacts
- New York Brownstones
- Westward Expansion and Immigration
- African Art
- Maasai Lifestyle
- Life on the Eurasian Steppe

Prehistory - Discover the world of prehistoric life through life-size recreations of extinct animals. Students investigate ancient ecosystems and learn how scientists use evidence from the past to understand Earth's history. Students will learn about:

- The Jurassic Period
- The Cretaceous Period
- The Chicxulub Event
- The Ice Age
- Early Man and Paleo-Native Americans

Native Americans - Explore the cultures, lifestyles, and traditions of Native American peoples through artifacts, tools, artwork, and historical exhibits. Students examine how Native communities adapted to their environments, developed unique cultural practices, and continue to shape the world today. Students will learn what the following is like in Native cultures:

- Everyday Life
- Religion, Beliefs, and Worldview
- Trade and Exchange
- Art and Craftsmanship
- Consequences of Westward Expansion
- The Great Plains Tribes

Westward Expansion - Explore the movement of settlers across North America during the nineteenth century through exhibits featuring frontier life, transportation, mining, commerce, and community development. Students examine the opportunities, challenges, and consequences of Western Expansion while considering its impact on individuals, communities, and the land. Students will focus on:

- Native Americans: Pre- and Post-Colombian Era
- New York Brownstones
- Sod Houses and the Homestead Act
- The Wild West
- The Transcontinental Railroad
- California Gold Rush

Local History - Discover the history of the local area through exhibits that highlight community development, industry, transportation, and everyday life. Students explore how local events and people contributed to the growth and character of the region.

Students will take a closer look at:

- California Native Americans
- California Gold Rush
- Port Chicago Disaster and World War II
- The Seeno Family Boats & Fishing Communities
- The Legacy of Joe DiMaggio

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a guided tour, or can I explore on my own?

At this time, the museum offers guided tours exclusively for student groups. The museum is not open for public admission. While students with organized tour groups will have the opportunity to explore each exhibit and interact with the collection throughout the tour, they are required to remain with their group and under the supervision of museum staff for the entire duration of their visit.

Are educational materials provided for students?

Yes. Educational materials in the form of worksheets, exercises, and activities are provided as part of our tours. These materials are integrated into each program to complement the tour content, reinforce key concepts, and encourage active participation.

Can the tour be tailored to topics my students are currently studying in class?

Yes. Whenever possible, museum staff and docents can incorporate classroom topics, curriculum units, and learning objectives into the tour. Prior to your visit, teachers are encouraged to share information with museum staff about the subjects their students are studying. While the exhibits included in the tour will remain the same, guides can adjust discussion topics, questions, activities, and points of emphasis to help reinforce classroom learning and make meaningful connections to the curriculum.

What types of wildlife are featured in the museum? Are they real specimens or reproductions?

The museum features wildlife from all seven continents, including mammals, birds, reptiles, marine life, and prehistoric animals. The collection includes a combination of preserved taxidermy specimens and carefully crafted recreations. Taxidermy specimens allow visitors to observe the size, appearance, and characteristics of animals up close, while reproductions and reconstructions help illustrate extinct species, prehistoric life, and other subjects that cannot be displayed using original specimens.

Where do the artifacts, specimens, and exhibits in the museum come from?

The museum's collections have been acquired through a variety of sources, including donations, private collections, and partnerships with local organizations.

Contacts

To make a tour reservation, please contact the Executive Director, Martin Betz. For inquiries regarding educational programming or additional information, please contact our Education Coordinator, Nicolette Kafetas.

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