Field Trip Planning Guide

Discover Explore Learn

NEW JERSEY STATE MUSEUM

Art History Science

205 West State Street, Trenton
(609) 292-6464
www.statemuseum.nj.gov
Exciting Exhibits, Programs, Tours & Shows

In the guide you will see many new exhibits, enrichment experiences and shows -- but don’t worry, all of your favorites are still available too. All exhibits and programs align with Common Core and NJ State Standards. General admission to the Museum is FREE for student groups and our add-on programs are offered at little to no cost. We also offer transportation grants to qualifying schools.

We hope you use this brochure to plan for your students to Discover * Explore * Learn at the New Jersey State Museum.

All exhibits and programs align with Common Core and New Jersey State Standards.
Exhibition tours are free and provide an in-depth and unique perspective on exhibitions and objects.

Current Exhibit Tours available are:

- Pretty Big Things: Stories of New Jersey History
- American Perspectives: The Fine Art Collection
- New Jersey’s Original People

All Guided tours are recommended for grades 2-12 and each tour is adapted to fit your classroom’s developmental level. We can even tailor the tour to your specific learning objectives, mixed age group or special needs. For reservations call (609) 292-6310.

Teacher Tips

- We recommend a ratio of 1 chaperone (or teacher) for every 10 students.
- Prepare your bus driver and chaperones with trip information including directions, parking, schedule and lunch instructions. Bus Parking is available at the Perry Street Parking Lot (about 4 blocks from West State Street).
- Prepare your students for the trip by creating a pre-visit lesson. Learn about the Museum in advance and talk with students about what they will see, how they should behave and what the learning objectives are.
- If you need a place to deposit lunches while you experience the museum, there are bins available in the Planetarium Lobby.
- Backpacks are not permitted in the galleries, please tell your students to leave them on the bus or deposit them in the bin with your lunches.
- Organize lunch in advance by calling the State House Tour Office at (609) 633-2709 and reserving the State Department lunch room or planning to picnic on the Museum grounds. Be sure to explain the lunch plan to students in advance.
- The Museum is accessible for visitors with special needs. To arrange accommodations for a museum visit, please contact Reservations at (609) 292-6310.

Guided Tours

Enhance your trip to the museum with hands-on interactive presentations from our expert curatorial and education staff. We offer a variety of programs throughout the academic year all based on our current exhibits, new research and our extensive collections. Students are able to ask questions, see real artifacts, and learn from some of the leading experts in their fields!

Advance registration is required. Fee is $3.00 per person. For reservations call (609) 292-6347 or (609) 292-1382.

- Dino Alphabet
- Learning about Art: Shapes and Colors
- Dinosaurs of New Jersey
- Botany Basics
- Cultural Connections: Delaware Lenape Block Stamped Baskets
- New Jersey’s Original People: Clues from the Archaeological Record
- Reading Portraits: Hidden Meanings
- Pretty Big Things: New Jersey Industry and Innovation
- Becoming a Natural Scientist
- If Pots Could Speak: A History of Pre-Historic Ceramics from New Jersey

The New Jersey State Museum Collaborative Learning Program

NJSM partnered with educators to produce this innovative program, which includes short videos and accompanying lesson plans designed to bring the content of the Remember 9.11 exhibition into classrooms statewide. Featuring first person testimonials from 9/11 family members and Ground Zero volunteers, this engaging program was designed by professional educators and meets common core and NJ State education standards. This 4-part video explores the objects and stories found in the exhibit on view through July 2013. Lessons designed for middle and high school students relate to each section of the video. Students will learn about:

- Life Before 9/11/2001
- Relief, Volunteerism and Good Citizenship
- The Collapse of the World Trade Center Twin Towers: Causes and Lessons Learned

The Video and Curriculum packet can be downloaded online at www.statemuseum.nj.gov or ordered by emailing beth.cooper@sos.state.nj.us

Enrichment Experiences

- Pretty Big Things: Stories of New Jersey History
- American Perspectives: The Fine Art Collection
- New Jersey’s Original People

Learn about the Museum in advance and talk with students about what they will see.
Core Exhibits

American Perspectives: the Fine Art Collection
In this exhibit your students will see art by well-known artists including: Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Romare Beardon, Jacob Lawrence and many more. Students will see the diversity of voices and visions found in 19th through 21st century American art and explore how world and US events (historical, political, cultural, etc.) impacted artists.

Pretty Big Things: Stories of New Jersey History
Do you know which American presidents have historical ties to our state? Can you name the symbols found on the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey? Learn the answers to these big questions of New Jersey history in Pretty Big Things: Stories of New Jersey History. This educational exhibit takes students on a journey into unknown stories of New Jersey history using some of the “biggest” artifacts from the museum’s collection.

Natural History Highlights
Are you studying Biology, Herpetology, Orinthology or any other ology? Engage and delight your students with a trip through this encyclopedic collection of natural history specimens. From the prehistoric to the present day, Natural History Highlights is a sampling of many of the most impressive, most popular specimens in the collection. If you visited the Museum years ago, you’ll recognize some old friends but you will also see many featured specimens that have never been exhibited!

New Jersey’s Original People
This NEW exhibit explains the story of the migration of Paleo-Indian across New Jersey and how they adapted to the changing climate beginning 13,000 years ago. Students can become scientific investigators to uncover what early inhabitants ate. They can see Paleo-Indian tools and guess their modern counterpart. Students can even touch a variety of materials used for making pots. An adjacent gallery, “The Science of Archaeology,” provides students with an opportunity to encounter an "active" dig site.

Cultures in Competition
The exhibition provides a view of the seventeenth-century Dutch, Swedish and English competition to start colonies within what is today New Jersey and to develop a successful fur trade. Students view this exciting period of history through Native American and European objects. A sampling of artifacts on display include: a rare dugout canoe, English- and Dutch-made seventeenth-century trade goods and a selection of tools and ornaments the Indians made from broken brass kettles. Students can also see a reconstruction of how wampum (small shell beads) was made by the Indians and learn the importance of the beads in the fur trade.

A Much Moved People
In 1832 George Catlin noted that the Delaware were among the most relocated Indians in the United States. Students will explore the story of the Delaware through the 19th and 20th century including how they adapted to a market economy by producing items desired by non-Indian settlers. The objects on view illustrate how the descendents of the Delaware Indians who left New Jersey, as well as those who stayed, continue to follow and adapt their cultural and religious traditions, thus preserving them for future generations.

The Civil War Flag Collection of New Jersey
Your students get up close and personal with a rare collection of flags carried into battle by New Jersey’s Civil War soldiers and learn about our important role in the history of the War Between the States. New Jersey is one of the few states to actively display its Civil War flags, which were often returned to capital cities after the war. This is a great complement to your classroom study of the civil war and a soldier’s life. This exhibit is located next door to the museum at 225 West State Street, the Department of State building.

Science History Art: Explore Your State Museum
Did you know? There is a special exhibit in the auditorium just outside the Museum front entrance. The New Jersey State Museum is one of the oldest state museums in the nation. Today, the Museum continues to expand and now includes well over 2 million specimens, artifacts and objects. Museum objects are often rotated through so there is always something new to see in this hidden gallery space.
Planetarium

Soar through the skies in the Museum’s spacious Planetarium, beneath precision projection of more than 6,000 stars. The largest planetarium in New Jersey, it seats 150 visitors in specially-designed reclining seats that transport an audience to any astronomical destination. Now featuring state-of-the-art Full Dome Video, visitors feel the sensation of zooming through the Solar System and beyond. This cutting-edge digital technology immerses audiences within images covering the entire 360 degree inner dome. The Planetarium offers something for everyone and features both traditional sky and laser programs. All school presentations include a live tour through our evening New Jersey Sky.

$3 per person. Advance registration is required. For reservations call (609) 292-6347.

One World, One Sky
Big Bird’s Adventure begins on Sesame Street when Elmo’s friend, Hu Hu Zhu, visits from China. Big Bird, Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu take viewers on an exciting discovery of the sun, moon, and stars. They also learn about the Big Dipper and the North Star. Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu then take an imaginary trip to the Moon where they learn that the Moon is a very different place from the Earth. When they imagine themselves back on Earth, they celebrate the idea that even though they live in two different countries, they still share the same sky. They even pick the North Star as their friendship star to always remind them of their shared joy of looking up at the sky together. Made possible by the Sesame Street Workshop and the National Science Foundation. Recommended for Pre-K – 2

The Secret of the Cardboard Rocket
Two adventurous youngsters blast off into space in a homemade cardboard rocket for an amazing voyage of discovery through the solar system. This entertaining program introduces students to basic facts about the sun, earth and other planets of the solar system. Recommended for grades: 2 - 4

Earth, Moon & Sun
NEW PROGRAM - Explore the relationship between the Earth, Moon and Sun with the help of an amusing character Coyote (adapted from Native American oral traditions), who has many misconceptions about our home planet and it’s most familiar neighbors. How do the Earth, Moon and Sun work together as a system, and what is the myth and science behind it? Why does the Sun rise and set? Many other commonly asked questions will be answered. Recommended for grades: 2 – 5

Sky Quest
Share a young woman’s lifelong fascination with the night sky. As a child, in her imagination she travels to Mars in a cardboard rocket. As an adult, she becomes an astronomer and builds a mountaintop observatory. She shares her telescope views of the Moon, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn with us; points out stars and constellations; and encourages everyone to make the time to look up, even if stargazing in urban areas with light pollution. Recommended for grades: 2 – 5

Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure
NEW PROGRAM - Eighty million years ago, the American Midwest lay under a great inland sea where colossal creatures ruled the waves, from giraffe-necked Styxosaurus and sea birds with teeth to the “T-Rex of the Ocean,” the 40-foot super-predator Tylosaurus. This National Geographic program immerses audiences in this unexplored world of the “other dinosaurs.” Meet up with a family of Dolichorhynchops as they swim through waters with prehistoric sharks and squids brought to life in our Planetarium’s full-dome immersive theater. Then see the real plesiosaurs and mosasaurs in Natural History Highlights, located in the Museum’s main gallery. Recommended for grades: 3 – 12

Astronaut
NEW PROGRAM - The exploration of space is the greatest endeavor that humankind has ever undertaken. What does it take to become a part of this incredible journey? What does it take to become an astronaut? Astronaut, narrated by the actor Ewan McGregor, answers these questions and more. In this family-friendly show you experience the extreme training astronauts undergo to prepare for the voyage into the harsh conditions of outer space. Recommended for grades: 4 - 12

Saturn, Jewel of the Heavens
NEW PROGRAM - It’s one of the most beautiful and magnificent planets in the solar system. Once, it was the most distant planet we knew of...a mysterious world seemingly beyond our reach. But now, using sophisticated spacecraft, we have finally been able to reach out to this great ringed giant. We’ve sailed by the trillions of chunks of ice that make up its glorious rings...we’ve uncovered the bizarre faces of its moons...and we’ve peered down into its turbulent atmosphere through massive and violent hurricanes. Presented in conjunction with our newest Museum exhibit, Spectacular Saturn! Recommended for grades: 4 – 12

Stars
Every star has a story. Some are as old as time, faint and almost forgotten. Others burn bright and end their lives in powerful explosions. New stars are created every day, born of vast clouds of gas and dust. Through every phase of their existence, stars release the energy that powers the Universe. Journey to the furthest reaches of our galaxy and experience the awesome beauty and destructive power of Stars! Recommended for grades: 4 – 12
Ultimate Universe
From the boundaries of space and time, through vast fields of wondrous galaxies, to the majesty of our Solar System, this show takes you on a grand tour of the universe and lets you experience its most captivating secrets. "The Ultimate Universe" is journey from the edge of the universe through space and time to reach our home planet, witnessing the major components of the cosmos along the way. Recommended for grades: 6 – 12

Passport to the Universe
As new scientific discoveries reveal answers to cosmic mysteries, we wonder how we fit into this vast universe. Taking audiences on a voyage of billions of light years, Passport to the Universe, produced by the American Museum of Natural History and narrated by Tom Hanks, is an incredible journey from our home planet to the edge of the universe. Audiences fly beneath the rings of Saturn, into the heart of the Orion Nebula, and back to Earth through a black hole, experiencing these stunning cosmic destinations as never before possible. Recommended for grades: 6 – 12

Extreme Planets
For centuries, humans have wondered whether we are alone in the Universe. Now, we are one step closer to knowing the answer. With the discovery of the first planet orbiting another star, we now know that planets are not unique to our Solar System. In fact, these "extra solar" planets now appear to be quite common. Explore what makes a planet "Earth-like" and take an immersive full dome tour of several worlds that just might fit the conditions we're looking for. From water worlds to molten landscapes, habitable moons to planets with multiple suns, these exotic worlds are not just science fiction anymore! Recommended for grades: 7 – 12
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of the universe through space and time to reach our home
Ultimate Universe

APRIL

Up, Up and Away with Mad Science
April 10, 2013 11:30am
This 45-minute special event features several different aspects of science. The audience will learn what a polymer is and will get to watch a brave volunteer make a giant batch of Slime with their bare hands! They will also be amazed as the Mad Scientist uses science to melt the 'Wicked Witch of the West' right before their eyes. Next, the children will learn about static electricity from demonstrations with a Van de Graaff generator. One of the victims children will even get to touch the Van de Graaff for a 'hair raising' experience. We round off the event with our exciting Dry Ice demonstrations. Recommended for students in grades K-6.

NEW! Predators in Your Neighborhood with the Philadelphia Zoo
April 17, 2013 11:30 am
See and learn about animals that hunt for prey and how they live. Perfect for grades K-5.

Sounds Like Science Preschool Show with Mad Science
April 24, 2013 11:30 am
This 40-minute show highlights the sense of sound. Through a combination of demonstrations and audience participation we bring the science of sound to your children. Among the experiments the students will witness how sound waves travel using both the audience and a Slinky. They’ll participate in creating a rainstorm complete with rain, thunder and lighting. And for a finale we’ll get to hear the quack of Quacker the Duck, the growl of Terry the Tiger and the roar of Rex the T-Rex. A very fun and preschool friendly show.

MAY

Jump Frog Jump Preschool Show – Young Audiences of New Jersey
May 1, 2013 11:30am
Based on the popular book by Robert Kalan, the professional dancers from Lustig Dance Theatre perform a 20-minute dance with enchanting music, narration, colorful costumes and interaction with the audience. After the performance, children are invited on stage to learn simple parts of the choreography and become their own frog, snake, turtle and fish characters. This performance is perfect for your preschool group and can also be enjoyed by students in grades K-2.

Outrageous Reptiles with the Philadelphia Zoo
May 15, 2013 11:30am
Students come face to face with snakes, turtles and crocodilians to learn about diverse reptilian lifestyles and the importance of these misunderstood animals in a variety of ecosystems. Recommended for students in grades K-5.

Math + Magic = Fun – Encore Performing Arts
May 22, 2013 11:30am
Presented by the Super Scientific Circus, this fast paced visual and magical show is designed specifically for grades K-3 with the purpose of creating excitement for Mathematics. The performance explores curriculum specific mathematical principles; counting forward and backward, counting by 2’s, 5’s and 10’s, addition and subtraction, the use of doubles, and the clock to assist in understanding fractions. Magic, music, circus skills, comedy and audience participation keep students focused and excited about math while clarifying the basic concepts which are the building blocks for the rest of their mathematical lives! The New Jersey State Museum is committed to supporting math and science in the classroom. Math Literacy is the cornerstone for all scientific study including Astronomy, Natural Science and Archaeology.

JUNE

Spin, Pop, Boom with Mad Science
June 5, 2013 11:30am
In this 45-minute presentation, the Mad Scientist will use simple but exciting science experiments and demonstrations to involve your group in the discovery process of science. Included in the event will be such experiments as the “Famous, Flaming Didgeridoo” and the “Fantastic Flying Foam Factory”. There will also be some audience participation. Spectacular experiments spark the children’s curiosity and highlight the very best of Mad Science. Recommended for students in grades K-6.

The Magic of Energy – Encore Performing Arts
June 12, 2013 11:30am
Join Lisa Lou and Miz Liz as they take a comic but factual search through four different renewable energy sources: Solar, Hydro-Electric, Wind and Bio Mass, and how and when to use each one! This program is filled with scientific explanations, amazing magic, incredible circus skills, audience participation and lots of “Energy!” Recommended for students in grades K-8.
Teachers Professional Development Workshops

The New Jersey State Museum is a registered Professional Development Provider for the New Jersey Department of Education Professional Standards Board (#2241); Teachers’ Professional Development Courses fulfill the requirements for continued certification on a credit/hour basis. Certificates will also be provided to teachers from Pennsylvania & Delaware.

Workshops are $5 per person and advance registration is required. Space is limited, so please register early. All workshops take place at the Museum 4:00 to 6:00 pm. For registration and more information, call (609) 292-1382.

Learning from Cultures in Competition
Thursday, March 21, 2013

Using Archaeology to Teach Native American Pre-History
Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Fan Books: Creating Personal Visual Histories
Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Teaching 9/11
Thursday, May 2, 2013

Science - It’s All Connected
Thursday, May 16, 2013