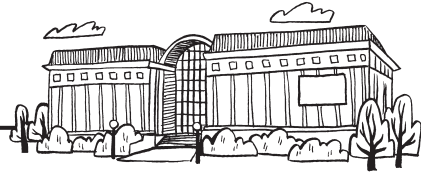




Chaperones, help your students explore the Minnesota History Center!

In each exhibit, **follow the chaperone instructions** to guide students to a particular location. Once there, ask the accompanying questions and encourage students to interact with the exhibit, use their imaginations, and connect to Minnesota history.

EXPLORE! And have fun!



Then Now Wow

**Find the sod house in the prairie section of the exhibit.
Ask your group the following questions:**

Have you ever been in a house like this?

How is this different from the place where you live? How is it the same?

This house is called a sod house. It is made from grass and dirt.
Would you like to live in a house made of grass and dirt?

Do you think animals might live in the dirt walls of this house?
Make the sound of an animal that might live here.

Now let's pretend that we live in the house. Where will we sleep?
Where is the bathroom? Where can we cook?



**Locate the Fur Trade Post by the canoe.
Point out the beaver and top hat, in the case nearby.
Ask your group the following questions:**



How many of you have ever seen an animal that lives outside before? Which animal was it?

In Minnesota, we have many wild animals called beavers that live in our rivers and lakes. Look at the beaver. How do you think it stays warm in the cold waters of our rivers and lakes?

Long ago, fancy people wore top hats made of beaver fur like the one you see in the case. Would you like to wear that hat? Why or why not?

In order to buy that hat, you would need lots of money. The rich people who owned those hats were very proud of them. Let's pretend we are fancy people with top hats. Put your chin up and stick your nose out. Now take a walk to the boxcar. Remember, you are very important!

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Gather your group outside the boxcar. Ask them these questions:

How many of you have been on a train before?

Long ago, many people traveled by train to go places. How do we get places today?

This train was not used to carry people. It was used to carry plants like corn and wheat. Let's imagine you are corn and wheat, growing in a farmer's field.

Pretend to grow. How big will you get?

Once you are grown, we'll pack you onto the train. Are you ready to travel? Wave goodbye to all the other plants in the farmer's fields.

We have arrived in the city of Minneapolis, where we will make the corn and wheat into food.

Can you think of some foods that are made out of wheat or corn?

What kind of food would you want to be? Why?

Weather Permitting

Gather at the ice castle in the center of the gallery and press the button to light up the model. Instruct your group to do the following:

Which colors do you see in the ice castle? Call them out when you see them.

Locate the picnic table near the back of the gallery. Instruct your group to sit on the benches and look up at the tornado. Ask your group the following questions:



Have you ever been in a rainstorm?

Have you ever seen lightning or heard thunder?

What sound does thunder make? Make that sound now.

Were you afraid?

Look up high in the house, can you find the piano?

How do you think that piano got into the bathroom up there?

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Minnesota's Greatest Generation

Locate the baby cribs at the beginning of the gallery under the title "A Generation is Born." Ask your group the following questions:

Were you ever small enough to fit in one of these cribs?

What are some of the noises you would make if you were still a baby?

Do any of you have a little baby brother or sister at home?

Do you like being a big brother or sister? Why or why not?

Pretend you are holding a baby in your arms. How would you do this?

Locate the Northwest Airlines airplane stairs near the end of the gallery. Instruct your group to sit on them, and ask the following questions:

Have you ever been on a plane before?

Have you ever seen a plane in the sky? What did it sound like?

If you could take a plane anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Show me how you would wave goodbye to me if you were going on the trip right now.

Our Home

Native Minnesota

At the front of the exhibit, find the quilt with a star on it. Say the following to your students:

Do you have a blanket like this in the place where you live?
What does your blanket look like?

This is a special kind of blanket. It is called a quilt, which is a blanket made up of different pieces of fabric sewn together. Imagine how warm and cozy you'd feel with it on you.

Which colors do you see on this blanket? Which shapes do you see?
Do you see the shape of a star?

Stars and the sky are important to the Dakota people.

Imagine you are going to sew a blanket like this. It will take a very long time and hard work.

Show me by moving your hands how you would sew it. What would you want to sew on your blanket?

In the section about "Ojibwe Migration," near the back wall of the exhibit, find the picture of different animals gathered at an Ojibwe camp. Have students look at the picture and say the following:

Ojibwe communities are made up of these special groups, called clans. The different animals in the picture remind us of these different clans. Which animals do you spot in the picture? Call them out!

Can you wiggle your ears like a bunny rabbit?
Lower your head and raise your shoulders like a turtle?
Can you growl like a bear?