

Historical Museum of Southern Florida

Historic Site Visit Program Curriculum Guide



MATHESON HAMMOCK PARK

INTRODUCTION

Dear Educator,

Thank you for reserving a Historic Site Visit program (HSVP) at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida (HMSF). We look forward to working with you and your students.

The HSVP is a very exciting program, through which your students will have the opportunity to explore and discover, firsthand, the treasures of the HMSF and the historic sites we partner with.

These programs incorporate standards that address skills tested on the FCAT:

- Cape Florida Lighthouse
- Miccosukee Indian Village
- Matheson Hammock Park and Marina
- The Barnacle house
- Lummus Park (Fort Dallas, The Miami River, Lummus Park and Wagner Home)
- Virginia Key Beach
- Miami-Dade County Courthouse in Downtown Miami

The purpose of the HSVP is to help students:

- Learn what a historical museum is and its role in preserving and presenting historical evidence.
- Expand their knowledge of our regional and national history.
- Experience Miami's rich multicultural history of the past 10,000 years.
- Involve the students in the process of documenting their own past.

Completion of the History Mysteries program, pre-visit and post-visit activities satisfy the following Sunshine State Standards:

SS.A.1.3.1, SS.A.2.3.1, SS.A.3.3.1, SS.A.4.3.1, SS.A.4.3.2, SS.A.4.3.3, SS.A.4.3.4, SS.A.5.3.1, SS.A.5.3.3, SS.A.6.3.1, SS.A.6.3.2, SS.A.6.3.3, SS.A.6.3.4, SS.A.6.3.5, SS.B.1.3.1, SS.B.2.3.4, SS.B.2.3.9, SS.C.1.3.1, LA.A.1.3.3, LA.A.2.3.2, LA.E.2.3.5, LA.A.2.3.6, LA.A.2.3.8, LA.B.2.3.1, LA.C.1.3.1, LA.C.1.3.4, LA.C.2.3.1, LA.C.3.3.3, LA.E.2.3.5, MA.A.3.3.1, MA.A.3.3.3, MA.A.4.3.1, MA.B.1.3.2, MA.B.1.3.4, MA.B.3.3.1, MA.B.4.3.2, MA.C.3.3.1, MA.D.1.3.1, MA.D.1.3.2, MA.E.1.3.1, MA.E.3.3.1, SC.D.1.3.2, SC.D.2.3.1, SC.D.2.3.2, SC.G.2.3.4, SC.H.1.3.1, SC.H.3.3.5, SC.H.3.3.6

Enclosed, you will find packets for your use with your students. The teacher booklet contains pre-visit and post-visit activities, as well as a list of suggested resources. This booklet is designed to introduce the museum to your students before their museum program and to reinforce and supplement concepts after their visit.

Sincerely,

The HMSF Education Team

Online brochure available at: <http://www.hmsf.org/education.htm>

MUSEUM TOUR GUIDELINES

Museum Tour Guidelines

We look forward to your visit with the Historical Museum (HMSF). Below are important points of information to help us coordinate a successful experience for you and your students.

RESERVATIONS – All programs must be scheduled in advance.

TOUR TIME – 10 AM to 12 PM (3 day HSVP); 9:30 AM to 1 PM (1 day HSVP) – On time arrival is imperative. Your tour maybe be shortened according to the amount of time you are late.

BUS LOADING – The driver should bring your class to the south side of 101 W. Flagler Street, to unload. Proceed up the staircase or ramp to the plaza. Our building is located on the north side of the plaza.

MEET US ON THE PLAZA – The Museum Educator will meet you at 10 a.m. on the plaza at our entrance. Look for us under the three arches.

MEET US AT THE SITE – The Museum Educator will greet you at the main entrance of the Historic Site. Time will be determined by type of HSVP you choose.

DISCIPLINE – Student’s disciplining must be handled by a teacher and/or chaperones. Cell phones must be turned off or put on vibrate during the program. Please refrain from using your phone.

FACILITIES – Restroom facilities are located in the museum. Students should use them after their tour, if possible.

FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES- Teachers should notify the museum in advance if accessibility needs are required. The staff will be on hand to assist you accordingly.

LUNCH – Please bring your lunch. Remember to dispose of all trash so the plaza or the site will be clean for the next visitors.

GO GREEN!

Use a projector and computer to show images and assignments to your students OR print this booklet on both sides of a sheet of paper!

GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

General Program Description:

The agenda will consist of three components. First, the students will visit the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and be given a tour of locations within that pertain to the subject matter and theme chosen. They will then experience, with a qualified Museum Educator, a significant historical site in South Florida. Last, they will create imaginative and instructive artwork, pertaining to their previous educational experience with the program.

Project Description:

Visit #1- Tropical Dreams Gallery Walk & Data Collecting:

An experienced guide will lead the students through a predetermined section of the *Tropical Dreams* galleries. The focus for this part of the program will be the various natural environments of the area, their formation and eventual use and destruction by humans. We will see how the earliest Paleo-Indian learned to use the environment and thrived with its natural resources. Students will learn of the tragic end to these first arrivals with the arrival of Europeans, beginning in the 1500s, and the subsequent arrival of other Native Americans and runaway slaves thereafter in the South Florida wilderness. We will complete the visit with the rapid, near-complete destruction of the region’s natural areas in the last 100 years.

Visit #2- Matheson Hammock Park:

Armed with notebooks and cameras, the students will visit the site; the visit to this park will be led by an experienced eco-historian with the museum. During the walk, they will learn the features of the rare and unique tropical hardwood hammock and mangrove forest ecosystems. They will observe and orally document rare, unusual and endangered examples of flora and fauna with a digital camera and journals. Students will see firsthand how this environment formed and see the myriad human-induced threats that are imposed upon it. They will demonstrate how people can make efforts to both preserve and restore natural areas such as these, so that they may continue to exist in the future.

Visit #3-Book Making:

Students will put together a book about their visit to HMSF and Matheson Hammock Park, utilizing their pictures, notes and drawings.

QUESTIONS TO ASK STUDENTS

What is a Museum?

Soon, you will be going on a learning expedition to the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and an historic site in our community. A museum is a place where a collection of objects is kept and displayed in exhibits.

Do you collect anything?

Why do you like to collect these things?

Have you ever been to a museum?

Have you ever seen things you collect at a museum?
Or have you been inspired to collect something you saw at a museum?

List 3 things you know about the history of South Florida:

A historical museum is a place where objects from the past are collected, cared for and exhibited, so you can explore and learn from them. At the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, you can investigate objects from more than 10,000 years of South Florida and Caribbean history.

At the museum, our collection is made up of: artifacts, documents, fossils and replicas.

An **ARTIFACT** is anything made or used by humans. A canoe made by a Seminole crafter is an artifact.

A **DOCUMENT** is something that is written or printed. A photograph is a document, as is a book.

A **FOSSIL** is the remains from an organism from a past geological age, such as bones or a leaf imprint.

A **REPLICA** is an exact copy of something. Sometimes, people who work in a museum use a replica when the original artifact is too fragile for visitors to touch or hold.

LOOK AROUND YOUR CLASSROOM

What is real?

What is a replica?

MATHESON HAMMOCK PARK

Matheson Hammock opened in 1930 as Miami-Dade County's first park, a gift to the county from Commodore W. H. Matheson. It was designed and constructed by the Federal Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). With the main entrance at 9610 Old Cutler Road, Matheson Hammock holds nearly 600 acres of natural beauty a few miles south of downtown Miami.

The park is bordered to the south by Snapper Creek; to the east lies Biscayne Bay. It is well known for its extensive forest of tropical hardwood hammock. Within the confines of the park are also mangrove forests, coastal mudflats and other marine habitats. Mangrove forests are nurs-

eries for hundreds of species of fish, which upon maturity will leave these safe havens for the open sea. Wading birds historically use this location to lay over on their migratory trips north and south. Manatees find this area comfortable in stormy weather and for summer retreats. Matheson Hammock Park, on the northern boundary of the Preserve, is enjoyed by thousands of people every year for swimming, wading, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, sunbathing, jogging, bicycling, bird watching and just enjoying nature.

Tropical hardwood forests are completely unique in the continental United States, holding a high diversity of plants, most of which have migrated to the area from the Caribbean islands. They are now considered native to South Florida, which represents the northernmost extent of their geographical range. These forests are typically densely vegetated and dominated by tropical trees and shrubs, most of which hold leaves during most or all of the year. Tropical hardwood hammocks provide critical habitat for a number of plants that are listed as threatened or endangered in Florida, such as the buccaneer palm, Florida boxwood, lignum vitae, manchineel and milkbark. Not all tropical species found in tropical hardwood hammocks are endangered. More common species include gumbo limbo, black ironwood, inkwood, lancewood, marlberry, pigeon plum, satinleaf and poisonwood. Many of the trees and plants found in tropical hardwood hammocks provide useful products for humans. For example, the ability of the gumbo limbo to sprout roots and produce a new tree from a fallen branch has been used to create living fences of gumbo limbo trees. The lignum vitae, sometimes called the "wood of life," is one of the densest woods available and was historically important for the making of ship propeller shafts, bearings, rollers and washers.





MUSEUM CONNECTION: THE SILVER BLUFF & MATHESON HAMMOCK

Before you embark on this wonderful experience with your students, either project or print out the photo of our Silver Bluff. The Bluff is located in the *First Arrivals* gallery. It is a replica of the oolitic limestone found in South Florida.

The Silver Bluff Part 1: Pre-Visit

Show students the bluff and ask them what they believe it is. Ask students to jot down 5 ideas. What geological time period do you think this bluff is from? Is it an artifact or a replica?

The Silver Bluff Part 2: Post-Visit

Flash the photo again and ask students to write about how oolitic limestone is important to South Florida residents (human, plant, and animal). What facets of the Silver Bluff are used in this important process?

GO GREEN!

Use a projector and computer to show images and assignments to your students OR print this booklet on both sides of a sheet of paper!

Activity 1: Appreciating Historic Preservation

The purpose of this pre-visit activity is to “warm-up” the students’ thinking in terms of historic preservation. This activity will be done before their first visit at the Museum. Before the second visit, during which they will go to the specific site, instruct your class to do another short writing prompt to find out their ideas of why this site is important to the historic preservation of our community. Students should make the correlation between a famous international historic site and its worldwide importance to a South Florida historic site and its local importance.

Step 1

Before first visit- Choose a famous Historic Site. For example:

- Egyptian Pyramids or Sphinx
- St. Augustine’s Castillo de San Marcos
- Great Wall of China

Or, choose a site you want to talk about. (This is only to get the students to start thinking about historic preservation).

Instruct students to answer the following questions in writing prompt or a discussion:

- Where is this Historic site?
- What is this site?
- Why is it important to the country in which it is located?
- Why is it important to the world?
- Why should the site be protected? Or would it be better as a parking lot?

Step 2

Before second visit- For this activity the student’s writing prompt or discussion should focus on the specific site their first visit introduced them to.

- Where is this Historic site?
- What is this site?
- Why is it important to Miami?
- Why is it important to South Florida?
- Why should it be protected? Or would it be better as a parking lot?

Activity 2: “From Wilderness to Metropolis”

Read the title of the quilt square, “From Wilderness to Metropolis” aloud to your class. Make 6 copies of this photograph so students can take a look. Prompt students to interpret what this title is referring to.

Ask students to write about what they already know of Florida’s wilderness, and to cite specific examples they see in Miami that indicate the city’s ever-growing expansion.

ABOUT THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida (HMSF) tells the stories of South Florida and the Caribbean. The museum promotes understanding of the past in order to inform the present and create a better quality of life. HMSF hosts a permanent exhibition gallery and a special gallery with several changing exhibitions each year. In addition, the museum houses a first-class Research Center which includes a non-circulating library, archival collection, and museum store that offers a unique array of Florida-themed books and gifts.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

All programs are correlated to state educational standards, focusing on the content standards assessed through the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). The programs also address curriculum areas beyond social studies, including language arts, mathematics and science (where applicable). Group educational programs are 2 hours long and include a tour of the permanent gallery and a personalized program.

PROGRAM SPONSORS

Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and The Children's Trust.



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www.soflahistory.blogspot.com

Your Story, Your Community...Your Museum



**HISTORICAL MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA**

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