

In the Olden Days Facilitated Program

Overview : Blow the cobwebs off an old photo album, explore some family treasures and discover what life was like for young Robert and Mary Smith in the early 1900s. Find out all about how children from a century ago experienced household chores, toys and games and a day at school.

Duration : One hour facilitated experience with a Museum Education Officer.
Please allow approximately 45 minutes additional time for self-guided gallery exploration using Student Activity sheets and Adult Helper Guide.

What your class will experience:

- Examine a range of household items and figure out how they were used to complete chores.
- Play with a range of old toys and consider how they compare to today's toys.
- Write on a slate and explore other items from an old classroom.
- Discuss how people reused objects and materials when resources were limited.

Excursion Booking and Enquiries:

For enquiries and bookings please contact:

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-  **Photocopy**
In the Olden Days Adult Helper Guide (for every adult)



Curriculum

Society &
Environment

Time, Continuity and Change

Students understand that people's actions and values are shaped by their understanding and interpretation of the past.

Key Messages

1. Technologies and lifestyles change over time.
2. We can compare and contrast objects from the past with those that we use today.
3. We can learn about the past by studying artefacts and historical records.

Galleries



Western Australia: Land and People
Hackett Hall, Level 1



Discovery Centre
Hackett Hall, Ground Level



At the Museum

Facilitated Program

One hour

The facilitated component of *In the Olden Days* takes place in one of the Museum's learning spaces. An Education Officer will guide students in exploring what everyday life was like for children in the past. Hands-on activities are included in the experience, allowing students the opportunity to handle a range of old-fashioned household, teaching and play items.

Please have your students split into four or five groups for this experience (depending on the number of students and adults). Each group will require one adult supervisor to assist them with the activities.

Self-guided Experience

Approximately 45 minutes

The self-guided component of *In the Olden Days* takes place in the Museum's galleries. Using the questions contained within the Adult Helper Guide, group leaders will be able to assist students to explore our collection of history-related objects.



Photocopy

Please bring with you on the day of your excursion:

- *In the Olden Days* Adult Helper Guide (for every adult)

Related Museum Resources

Planning Your Excursion

- Excursion Management Plan
- Excursion Essentials



Available online at museum.wa.gov.au/education

Classroom Activities

From this list, please select some activities that are suitable for the age and ability of your students.

- **Fun and games:** Students can explore some old-fashioned games or make up some of their own, just as children in the 'olden days' would have done:
 - Make up a skipping rhyme to sing while they skip rope.
 - Have a competition to see who can make the most interesting thing out of a sheet of newspaper.
 - Find or make a sack and have a sack-race on the grass.
 - Use some chalk to draw a hopscotch game on the pavement.
 - Make up their own card game from a deck of cards, or play some old favourites like *Snap* and *Old Maid*.
 - Make a spinning top and see how long they can keep it spinning.
 - Bring in some marbles and make up some games.
 - Have a hula-hoop competition.
 - Research some old-fashioned parlour games on the internet and have the children play them in the playground or classroom, for example *Blind Man's Bluff*, *Marco Polo*, *Follow the Leader*, *Chinese Whispers*, *Cat's Cradle* and other string games.
 - Look online and find patterns to make a range of old fashioned toys like jumping jacks, paper dolls and more.
- **Go nuts:** Collect gum nuts from the school playground or have students bring them in from their gardens or parks. Have students create toys or games from them in as many different ways as they can, such as making patterns on play-dough, stencilling patterns or pictures on to paper with paint, creating their own gum nut figures.
- **Puppet play:** Make olden day characters from old socks, wooden spoons, cardboard, or anything else they can find and put on a puppet show to entertain the class. Use found materials to make a puppet theatre, and use this and the puppets to re-create life in the olden days. Students could also make shadow puppets with paper or use their hands and fingers to make shadow figures on the wall.
- **A stitch in time:** Have the students learn to sew, embroider, weave, knit or crochet and let them experience these time-honoured traditions by creating an old fashioned 'sampler' featuring their name, some clothes for a favourite toy, a knitted scarf, an embroidered placemat or a teddy bear from fabric and yarn scraps.
- **Rugged up:** Make a rag-rug as a class project or create something smaller such as a placemat. This activity will demonstrate how materials were re-used to make other useful objects, with little waste. Look online to find many useful sites with instructions and techniques.

- **School days:** Research what schools were like in the olden days and draw up a table comparing today's classroom with the past. For example, headings could include:
 - School rules
 - Punishments / consequences
 - Subjects studied
 - Games played in the playground
 - How students were transported to and from school
 - Old-fashioned names
 - Clothes children wore to school
 - Heating / cooling in the classroom
- **Time travel:** Using ideas from the above activity, role-play a day in an olden days school. Allocate old-fashioned names, and dress up for the day!
- **Colonial cooking:** Research what foods were available in the olden days and find some recipes from these times to try. Students could make butter and bread, damper, biscuits or cakes.
- **Show and tell:** Students could bring in historical items from a grandparent or great-grandparent, and present the class with a story about what the item is and what it was used for. These items could be made into a mini museum display with students creating their own interpretive signage.
- **A picture tells a thousand words:** Students could bring in an old family photograph and write a simple biography about that person.
- **Family tree:** As a take-home project, students could work with their parents on creating a family tree that shows how all the members of their family are connected, and how many generations they can trace back.
- **Local history:** The class could research the history of the school or other local historical landmark and present their findings to the rest of the school at an assembly. They could find old school photos or pictures of the grounds, and compare how things have changed or stayed the same (for example, the architecture, clothing worn etc).
- **Personal histories:** Invite one of the class members' grandparents or great-grandparents to come in and share stories with the class about what it was like to grow up long ago.



In the Olden Days Adult Helper Guide

Photocopy

In the Olden Days Adult Helper Guide (for every adult).

How To Use This Guide

Use the questions contained within this guide to encourage discussion of key concepts while you explore our collection of history-related displays with your group of students.

Please allow approximately 45 minutes additional time for self-guided gallery exploration using Student Activity Sheets and Adult Helper Guide.

Galleries

You will visit three galleries. The following icons are used within this document to identify which gallery you should be in.



Western Australia: Land and People
Hackett Hall, Level 1



Discovery Centre
Hackett Hall, Ground Level



Colonial Cottage



- Let's stand inside this cottage - a replica of an European settler's home. Does this look like your house? How is it different?

The materials used to make the home are simple, natural materials. There are no floor coverings, ceiling or fly-screens. There are also no electrical appliances like televisions or microwaves.

Fireplaces were common in homes to keep people warm. Today we still use fires but we also have heaters and air-conditioners.

Making Do



- Find this display where you can see a couch set and a small tin boat. What is special about these things?

These items are made by re-using:

- The couch set is made from old packing crates (wooden boxes used to transport things).
- The mug is made from a tin can.
- The hand basin is made from old car parts.
- The toy boat is made using mousetraps.

- Have you ever made something by re-using?

Surf's Up!



- Western Australians have always enjoyed going to the beach. Look for this display. Can you find 100-year old sunglasses, a 70 year-old bathing suit and some old-fashioned sunscreen?

Talk to students about what they think people used to wear to the beach and how visiting the beach might have changed over the last century.



What Is It?



- Students can explore the *Discovery Centre* and discover a whole world of amazing artefacts from the past. Use the following questions to encourage discussion about each object of interest.

- What is it? What material is it made from?
- When was it used? (information panels usually list a year or decade)
- What was it used for?
- Who might have used it?
- How is it the same as what we use now?
- How is it different?

- Find the wall of old bottles. Can you recognise any of them? Can you guess what was inside them? Which one looks the oldest?

Use the information panel to find out if the student's guesses are correct.

- Discover the dolls in the draws. Have dolls changed much over the last few hundred years?

Talk about the things that are still the same (dolls still look like babies or little girls, but the materials they are made from, the things they wear and the things that they can do may have changed).

- Look in the drawers for the miniature household items. Can you find tiny cutlery, irons, teapots and a sewing machine? Why would children play with these things?

Children would play with replica household item when play-acting, where they can learn about running a real household for when they become an adult.

- Can you find these things hidden in the drawers nearby:

- Old letters and stamps
- Tin boxes
- Watches
- Pens and other school things
- Old jewellery