

Yakima Valley Museum – Themed Field Trip Programs

All themed field trip programs include a hands-on lesson and a tour of relevant exhibits in the museum. Each lesson takes approximately 45 minutes and can accommodate 30 students. For groups with more than 30 students, they will be split into two stations (lesson and tour) that rotate after 45 minutes. For groups larger than 60 students, a third rotation will be added. Based on grade level and content, please select **one** lesson out of the options below for your themed field trip program.

Agriculture

How do we grow so much here in Yakima? Learn about early agriculture in the Yakima Valley, examine the impact of bees and pollination, and explore the way animals—and people—have adapted to life in Washington.

Lessons

Adaptation Exploration

- Recommended grades: 3-8
- Description: Students will explore the basics of animal adaptation, its significance, and how adaptations develop over time. The lesson also includes an Adaptation Match Game, in which students will have to pair animals from the Pacific Northwest with their corresponding adaptations.

All About the Water Cycle

- Recommended grades: 3-8
- Description: Students learn about the flow of water between different places on Earth, from soil surfaces to rivers to clouds and so on. This lesson includes a discussion of the water cycle, a game meant to simulate how water moves between different places on Earth, and exploration of the importance of water and irrigation for agriculture in Yakima Valley.

The Buzz About Bees

- Recommended grades: 4-8
- Description: Students explore the role of honeybees in our environment, the different dynamics inside a beehive, and the basics of pollination. This lesson includes a “bee communication challenge” as well as an opportunity to design a pollination device that works just as hard as a bee.

Featured Exhibits

- Agriculture in Yakima
- Cabinet of Curiosities

Art

What kind of art can be found in Yakima Valley? Explore the science behind neon lights, discover the importance of art in apple production, and learn more about the different artforms practiced by people—past and present—in the Yakima Valley.

Lessons

Apple Labels

- Recommended grades: 3-5
- Maximum number of students: 40
- Description: Students will learn about the history of apple label design in Yakima Valley. They will consider the importance of different colors and imagery in advertising, before being offered a chance to design their own Yakima Valley apple label.

Light Analysis

- Recommended grades: K-3
- Maximum number of students: 30
- Description: Students will discover what it means for objects to be transparent, opaque, translucent, or reflective. They will explore these concepts using flashlights and lightboxes, then consider the use of different lighting in art.

Featured Exhibits

- Circle Squared – Yakima Valley Museum’s Neon Logo
- Neon Garden
- Land of Joy and Sorrow
- Gemstone Collection
- Native American Beadwork and Basketry
- Yakima Valley Apple Labels
- Richard Elliot’s Reflectors

- Historic Cameras

Civics

Why is it important to get involved in democracy? Learn about the history of Washington women's suffrage, the U.S. Supreme Court, and Yakima-raised Justice William O. Douglas.

Lessons

Mock Trial

- Recommended grades: 9-12
- Description: Students will use one of William O. Douglas' most famous Supreme Court cases to conduct their own mock trial. As a result of this trial, students will gain a better understanding of the legal system, the Supreme Court, and the real-life impact of the Court's decision in the case. **This lesson requires teachers to introduce students to the case and assign roles (plaintiff, defendant, or Justice) in advance. If selected, instructions for this process will be sent directly to the teacher by e-mail.**

Voting Simulator

- Recommended grades: 6-12
- Description: Students will explore the importance of voting and the history of voter suppression in the United States. Through a three-round voting simulator, students will gain a better understanding of fair elections, voter exclusion, and poll taxes. Students will then learn about the women's suffrage movement and notable Supreme Court cases related to voting rights, including *Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections*.

Featured Exhibits

- Yakama Nation – Land and Water Rights
- William O. Douglas
- Robertson Room – Freedom of the Press
- Washington State Suffrage
- Moments That Made US

Early Washington History

What did Washington look like hundreds of years ago? Learn about the lifestyle of the Yakamas, examine the impacts of American settlement, and celebrate the United States' 250th birthday with our temporary exhibit about early American history.

Lesson

Heading West: Oregon Trail Simulation

- Recommended grades: 6-12
- Description: Students will examine the difficulties involved in early westward migration and consider settlers' motivations for embarking on the Oregon Trail. They will then participate in a simulation of the Oregon Trail where they must make decisions related to supply management, potential dangers, and group survival.

Featured Exhibits

- Yakama Nation
- Mattoon Cabin – Arrival of American Settlers
- Washington State Suffrage
- Moments That Made US – America 250

Geology & Paleontology

What was Yakima Valley like millions of years ago? Explore exhibits focused on the Valley's ancient climate, learn more about the Columbian Mammoth, and discover how geology and paleontology help us understand the world as it was long ago.

Lessons

Introduction to Paleontology

- Recommended grades: 3-8
- Description: Students will discover the basics of paleontology, including its definition and practices. They will then receive an opportunity to “excavate” fossils from a sandbox.

Mountain Formation

- Recommended grades: 6-8
- Description: Students will explore the basics of mountain formation through a series of hands-on activities. They will use several experiments to consider deposition and down-warping, sedimentary layering, fault blocking, and rifting.

Rocks and Minerals

- Recommended grades: K-3
- Description: Students will discover the differences between rocks and minerals. After learning the basic differences, students will then receive an opportunity to select their favorite rock or mineral from a provided collection, make observations about it, and group similar specimen as part of a “class exhibit.”

Featured Exhibits

- Petrified Forest
- Gemstone Collection
- Pleistocene Era – the Columbian Mammoth
- The Time Tunnel

Mountains & Exploration

Why do people choose to explore new places? Consider the risks, benefits, and realities of two forms of exploration: historic westward expansion and modern-day mountaineering.

Lessons

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Trail. They will participate in a simulation of the Oregon Trail where they must make decisions related to supply management, potential dangers, and group survival.

Featured Exhibits

- Mountaineering
- Mattoon Cabin
- Robertson Room
- William O. Douglas

Museums

What's a museum, anyway? Discover the early history of museums, explore the different ways museums contribute to the preservation of the past, and get hands-on experience investigating artifacts.

Lessons

Artifact Analysis

- Recommended grades: 6-12
- Description: Students will learn about the processes by which museum professionals analyze, classify, and preserve different kinds of historical artifacts. This lesson incorporates hands-on learning activities, including ceramic reconstruction.

Exhibit Development

- Recommended grades: 8-12
- Description: Students will learn about the methods museum professionals use to develop exhibits. This lesson will finish with an opportunity for students to create their own class exhibit using provided artifacts and information.

Introduction to Archaeology

- Recommended grades: 6-12
- Description: Students will learn the basics of archaeology, including its history and practices. Students will then have an opportunity to conduct their own archaeological work at a series of stations; stations include surveying, excavation, soil analysis and sifting, and site mapping.

Featured Exhibits

- Alexandria Mammoth
- Cabinet of Curiosities
- History of Yakima Valley Museum
- William O. Douglas

News & The Media

How did people get their news before social media? Explore historic newspaper presses used in the creation of the Yakima Daily Republic, learn about the city's first Spanish radio station, and discover the story of Yakima's own "Uncle Jimmy."

Lesson

Extra Extra!

- Recommended grades: 6-12
- Description: Students will learn about the development of different forms of news media, including newspapers and radio shows. Students will then practice writing their own article as a contribution to a class newspaper.

Featured Exhibits

- Robertson Room
- KIMA – Uncle Jimmy's Clubhouse
- KREW Radio Station

Transportation

Before cars, how did people in Yakima get around? Learn more about stagecoaches and the impact of railroads on the city of Yakima. You can even take a seat in an historic mud wagon!

Lesson

Transportation Design

- Recommended grades: 6-12

- Description: Students will learn about the forms of transportation historically used in the Pacific Northwest. They will then consider why and how people create new forms of transportation and identify flaws or weaknesses in our modern vehicles. Students will respond to these flaws by designing their own form of transportation.

Featured Exhibits

- Stagecoaches
- Mud Wagon
- The Moving of Yakima – Railroads

Yakima Town History

What was Yakima like 100 years ago? Explore Yakima's relocation from Union Gap, goods and signs from old businesses, and the different communities that call Yakima home.

Lessons

Mobile Town

- Recommended grades: 5-8
- Description: Students will learn the story of Yakima's relocation from Union Gap to its current location. They will then be presented with an engineering challenge—moving their own “town” from one place to another using only the supplies provided.

Light Analysis

- Recommended grades: K-3
- Description: Students will discover what it means for objects to be transparent, opaque, translucent, or reflective. They will explore these concepts using flashlights and lightboxes and consider the use of different lighting in art, including neon lights like those in our Neon Garden.

Raised In Yakima

- Recommended grades: 2-8
- Description: Students will learn about famous people born or raised in Yakima, including notable figures like William O. Douglas, Willie Turner, Debbie

Macomber, and Kyle MacLachlan. Students will then have an opportunity to identify and present their own dreams.

Featured Exhibits

- The Moving of Yakima
- The Neon Garden
- Old General Store
- William O. Douglas
- Yakima's Notable Residents