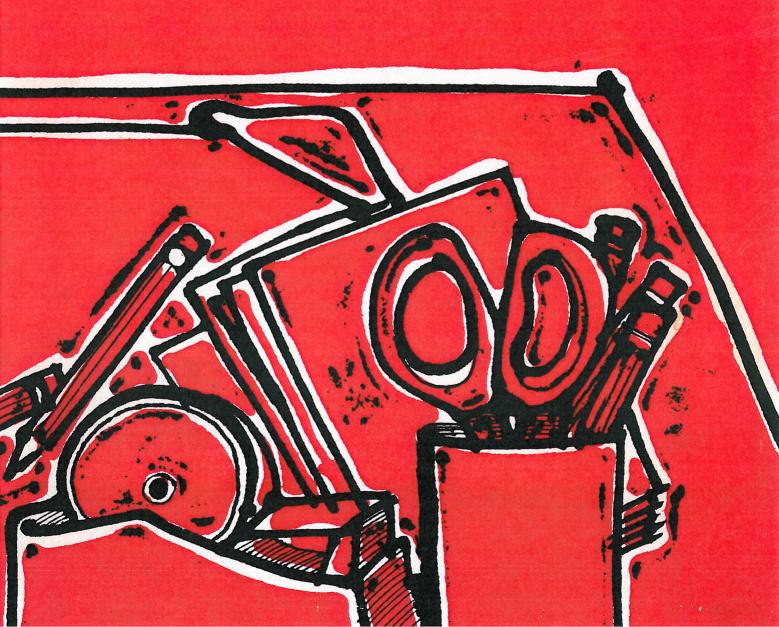
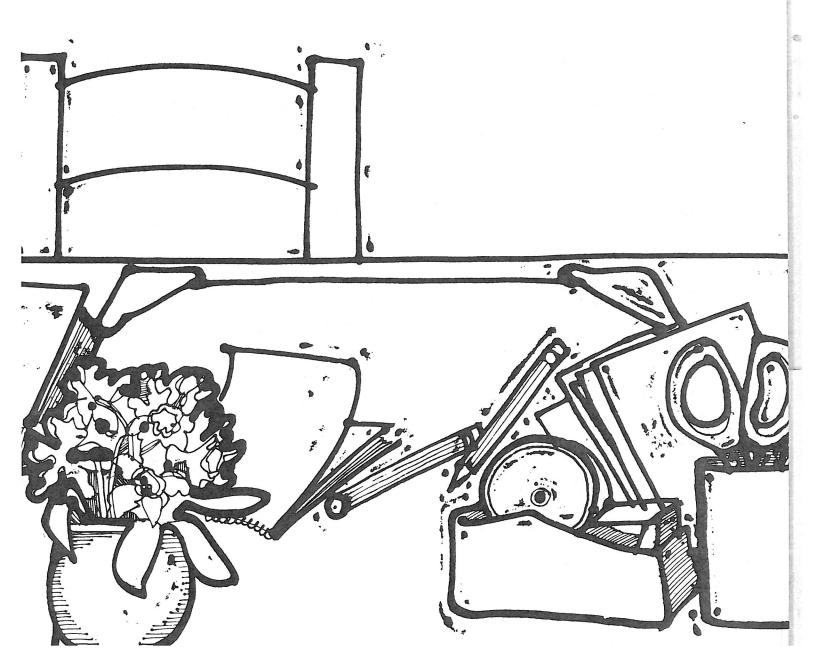
Boston Children's Museum A Directory for Teachers



Boston Children's Museum A Directory for Teachers



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A young visitor examines a turtle in the 1940's

archival photo

The Inside Story

of The Children's Museum

In 1914, a group of teachers from the Science Teachers Bureau set out to put their students more in touch with "real stuff". They wanted a site for the exchange of ideas and materials among teachers of science and they wanted to offer teaching material to parts of the city then unable to secure it. They founded The Children's Museum of Boston to accomplish their goals.

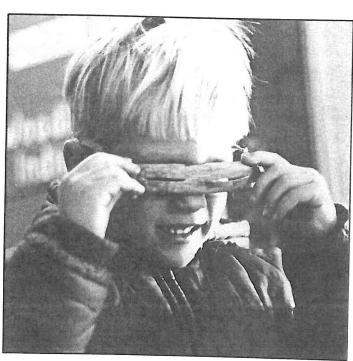
By the 1920's, the Museum's exhibits, programs and loan materials were well established. Dr. Charles J. Douglas, President of the Museum 1917-1927 remarked:

"If I were asked to describe our Museum in a sentence, I should say that it is a teaching organization which uses museum exhibits and apparatus as tools."



Pine Bank, the Museum's first home

archival photo



Eskimo snow goggles, part of an early interactive program in the 1960's archival photo

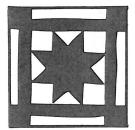
In 1962, Director Michael Spock, also a teacher, brought to the Museum his vision of interactive exhibits, kits and programs.

"The Children's Museum has a commitment to helping everyone learn from an increasingly tough and demanding world through direct experiences with real materials.

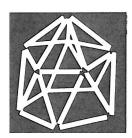
"We believe in learning by doing. And whether it is a six-year-old exploring issues of scale on the <u>Giant's Desk</u>, where telephone, ruler, cup, paper clips and sun glasses are all 12 times life size, or a teacher constructing a math game out of industrial scrap in a RECYCLE workshop, everyone is drawn into the learning process."

Today the Museum is still staffed with experienced teacher/curators eager to share interactive programs with children and useful, relevant, engaging materials with teachers.

Museum exhibits, resource materials, collections and programs complement one another and are, generally, centered around one of six major themes:



Americana



Science



Japan



Native Americans



Multicultural Studies



Early Childhood

Additional exhibit topics include <u>Work</u>, <u>Dolls</u>, <u>Toys and Games</u>, and areas of social concern such as <u>Special Needs</u> and <u>Health</u>.



These themes reflect the strengths of our collections, the expertise of our staff and our mission to help beginners of all ages learn more about their world. Common to all is our commitment to an educational process of learning by discovery and direct experience with real materials.

IIzzhibit Center

Teachers now use the Museum's Exhibit Center in a variety of ways.

As a way to give children experiences unavailable in school:

City streets, manhole covers and telephone lines are familiar enough to most children. But the <u>City Slice</u> exhibit provides an opportunity unique to a museum like this one: the chance to actually climb down a manhole, to see what really goes on underneath the city.

As an inspiration for classroom activities:

The <u>Bubbles</u> exhibit, with its simple materials made from everyday household objects, and the <u>Waterplay</u> area are only two of many activities which teachers have replicated in the classroom.

As an introduction to an area:

A sixth grade teacher wanted her students to understand more fully how the daily lives of Japanese children might compare to their own experiences, before they began a unit on Japan. She scheduled a special Exploration in the Japanese House.

As the culmination of a unit of study:

A group of fourth graders who had been learning about the Wampanoag people living in their part of the state, came to visit the Museum. Before their field trip the teacher used her free pass to preview the exhibits, and then gave her students three things to look for in the wigwam of the We're Still Here exhibit.



The Bubbles exhibit

Richard Howard

As a stimulus to their own learning:

Grandparent's House provides endless opportunities for learning, for adults as well as children. A good example is the most popular activity in <u>Grandmother's Attic</u>, the "What is it?" game, where visitors try to identify a hoop skirt, a rug beater and a wooden baby walker which looks remarkably like its modern counterpart.

Field Trips

Exploring Time

Most groups of children who come to The Children's Museum spend a major part of their visit in what we call "Exploring Time." This means that after an introductory program, they are free to explore the Museum at their own pace, spending more time at one exhibit than another and perhaps missing some areas altogether. While many children take a certain amount of "settling down" time, we have learned over the years that this mode of learning is best suited to the setting, the length of the visit and the nature of our exhibits. Staff are on hand throughout the Museum to help children focus on exhibits and provide enriching activities.

Teachers often ask...

Can I request a special program in one area?

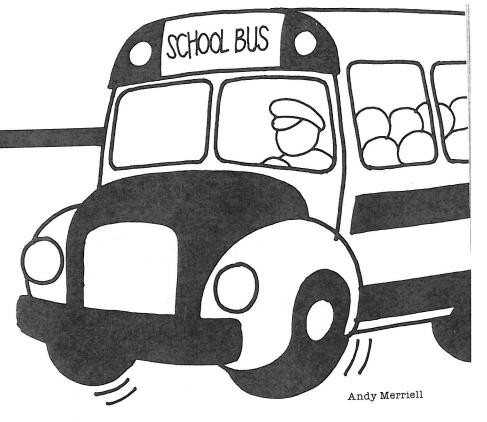
The standard school visit is designed to allow children to explore the entire Museum, but special focussed Explorations are now available in the Japanese House, the Native American exhibit and Grandparents' House. Others will be possible in the future. The Resource Center can give you more information.

Can we have a longer visit? What if we arrive late (or early)?

Visits are scheduled to accommodate the many groups who would like to come to the Museum and numbers are purposely limited in order to provide the best possible experience. It is therefore very important that groups arrive on time. Because we realize children would like to have more time in the Museum, each child receives a free pass to come again.

What is the role of the teacher during the visit?

We would like teachers to play an active role during their students' visit, but to understand at the same time that they can relax a bit. Staff are available throughout the exhibits, allowing teachers the opportunity to stand back and observe their children in a new setting. It is usually not necessary for children to be grouped



with an adult for the entire visit. Teachers are encouraged to use part of their time to visit RECYCLE and the Resource Center where a free classroom poster is available.

How can I prepare my class for a visit?

The best way is to use the pass in your previsit packet and come to see the Museum yourself. This is helpful even if you have been to the Museum in the past since exhibits change frequently. Be sure to visit the Resource Center where you will find a wide assortment of materials on each of the exhibit topics, which may help in planning activities before and after your visit.

Who are the staff?

The staff wearing orange aprons are "exhibit interpreters" who do a ten-month internship at the Museum. Many of them are planning to become teachers. Maroon apron staff are members of our Teenage Work Program who work at the Museum part-time while attending school. Blue aprons denote volunteers who spend many hours working in a variety of capacities. All receive training in each of the program areas.

How do I make a reservation?

Call 426-6500 ext. 221, M-F, 9am-lpm. Since spaces fill quickly, we encourage you to call early in the school year. All group visits by nonprofit schools and community groups are sponsored by an appropriation from the State Legislature funded through the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, a state agency.

Resource Center

While we know that most children will visit the Museum only a few times as they grow up, this kind of "learning by doing" can and does happen in schools, community centers and homes all over the state.

To support teachers in this effort the Museum operates a Resource Center, overflowing with curriculum materials, ideas and examples of classroom activities. Any visitor can use the Resource Center free of charge and members of the Museum may borrow materials.

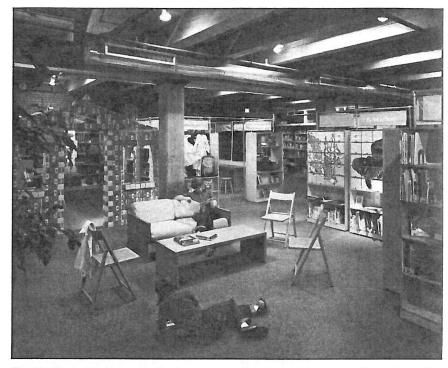
How do teachers use the Resource Center?

- Some browse on a Sunday afternoon, reading curriculum materials and gathering background information and ideas.
- Some plan to pick up a kit before a field trip for follow-up activities.
- Some set up an inservice afternoon when a group of teachers from one school or system can have an introduction to the Resource Center or a special program.

Library materials

Learning materials in the Resource Center are organized in eight separate activity and display units called "studies", which correspond to the major subject themes of the Exhibit Center.

There are studies with resources on science and technology, natural science, Americana, child development, special needs and cultures including Japan, China and Native Americans, as well as a growing collection of multicultural materials.



The library in the Resource Center

Steve Rosenthal

Teachers visiting the Resource Center will find both "how to do it" books (Exploring Fields and Lots:
Easy Science Projects is a good example) and more comprehensive background materials (The Urban American Indian for instance).

Films, courses and workshops

The Resource Center is also a site for films, courses and workshops. Recent topics have included a daylong conference on East Asian resources, a series of Saturday Seminars for Teachers on ten different topics, occasional workshops on using RECYCLE materials in imaginative ways and a folk arts series on Japanese and Native American crafts.



RECYCLE

Steve Rosenthal

Recycle

RECYCLE sells inexpensive materials discarded by factories that are ideal for science, art and craft projects. Teachers are among RECYCLE's best customers. What other group of people better knows what to do with an assortment of foam, odd bits of fabric, scraps of leather and a barrel of camera lenses? RECYCLE's mylar, ribbon and cardboard go a long way in those seemingly endless classroom projects teachers encounter each year.

The Museum Shop

The Museum Shop has an excellent selection of books for teachers and some unusual items hard to find elsewhere, such as Native American herbal teas, stencils, self-hardening clay and much more. Book topics range from the theoretical (A Manual on Nonviolence and Children) to the practical (Identifying Animal Tracks) to the humorous (I Am Not A Short Adult; Getting Good At Being A Kid). Most Museum publications are available as well. The Shop also carries crafts, games and musical instruments, with a special concentration on the Museum's major themes. The Shop is open during Museum hours.

KTits

The classroom teachers who founded The Children's Museum knew that any teacher faced with teaching a unit on Japan would love to have all of the objects needed to bring that culture alive for students—real calligraphy brushes and ink stones, clothing, cooking implements, musical recordings and photographs. The Museum's Kit Rental Department was designed to do just that.

Over 100 titles are now available. Here are just a few of the most popular:

Bones
Plant Dyes and Dyeing
Playspace At Home
African Arts
Medical Stuff

Hopi Culture Paddle-to-the-Sea Traditional China Fluid Patterns



An exhibit kit in a 1940's classroom

archival photo

Exhibit kits provide artifacts from the Museum's teaching collection which can be used as a display or in conjunction with a curriculum.

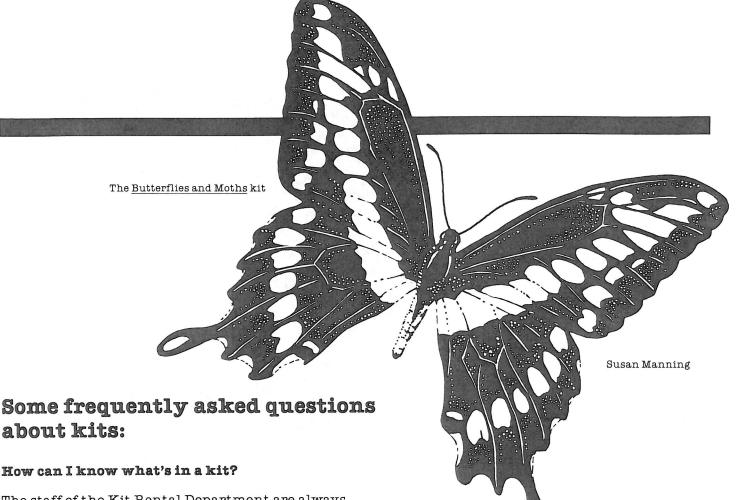
Study Kits are mini-curriculum units with a kit guide, artifacts, activity ideas, books and some AV materials.

Curriculum units are extensive multimedia kits with artifacts, books, AV materials, models, activity ideas as well as supplies, and a teacher's guide with structured lesson plans for a two to three week study.

Discovery Kits are for small groups and include objects, pictures and lots of activity suggestions.

The Eskimos kit

Signe Hanson



How can I know what's in a kit?

The staff of the Kit Rental Department are always happy to give detailed information about the contents of a kit. The Resource Center has a complete list of the contents of each kit and can send a flyer listing all of the titles. Some kits are also available for preview in the Resource Center. A slide show featuring all of the kits can be borrowed for teachers' meetings.



The kit: Paddle-to-the-Sea

How do I pick up a kit?

Kits may be picked up daily at the Museum's Shipping and Receiving Door (parking is not necessary) or shipped via UPS for additional fees. Free admission to the Museum is available for drivers and their children when picking up kits on weekday afternoons; many school volunteers find this an attractive option.

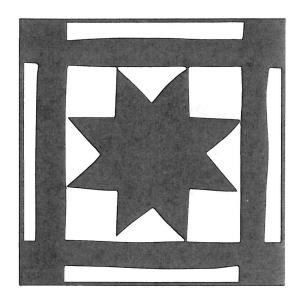
How long may I keep the kit?

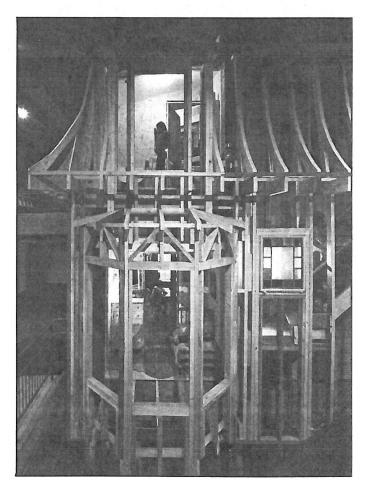
Rental periods range from one to three weeks and longer term rentals may be arranged. Some teachers who rent the larger curriculum units share them within a school for a longer period, maximizing the opportunity for enriching their study of a topic.

Americana

Visit Grandparents' House: The kitchen, parlor, attic and cellar of this Victorian house are ideal places to stimulate communication across generations. Furnishings and objects in the house recall to adults their memories of times gone past and encourage the sharing of these recollections with youngsters. Grownups and children discuss the ways in which life has changed over this century and also what aspects have remained the same. Activities such as cooking "from scratch", making turn-of-the-century parlor games and listening to old-time radio programs are among those offered during school visits.

Use the Resource Center: Here you will find a wonderful collection of resources on American pastimes, art and architecture, education, children's games, immigration experiences and everyday life through the decades. Social history and the experiences of the common person are the focus. Among the many classroom materials you will find reproductions of Sears catalogues from 1902 to 1927 which allow a comparison of items from those two decades with contemporary objects sold today.





Grandparent's House seen through City Slice Steve 1

Museum may be arranged. Sessions feature crafts, cooking and games from the past; objects and photographs from the Museum's collection are highlighted. Call the Resource Center for more information.

Attend a seminar: Two popular programs in recent years have been A Neighborhood Walk; Learning About Architecture Where We Live, in which participants learn how neighborhood architecture can be used to bring history alive for children, and Holiday Arts and Crafts from Grandmother's Day where you can try your hand at papyrotamia (paper crafts), tin work, sachets and pomander balls.

Plan an Exploration: Single or multisession programs in school or at the

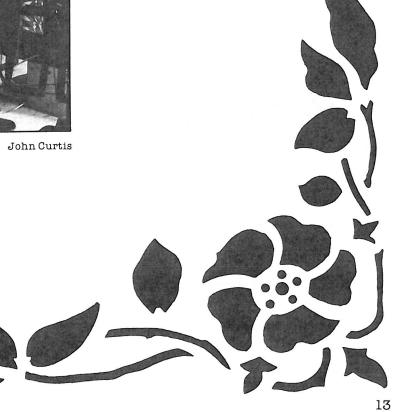
Steve Rosenthal



Grandmother's Attic

Borrow a kit: Quilting Design: The Right Triangle and Simple Stenciling are two popular Discovery Kits which work well with small groups and contain inspiration for larger classroom projects in either math or history. If your class is studying colonial history, the kits New England Farm Life and Early American Life will give added dimension to this experience.

Visit the Shop: The Shop features reproductions of many period pieces of paper ephemera from earlier in this century, both from the Museum's collection and elsewhere. Here you will also find reproduction dolls and toys, dollhouse furniture, children's books and stenciling templates. Look for Toys and Tales From Grandmother's Attic by Edie Kraska and Antique Fashion Paper Dolls of the 1890's, with commentary by Sylvia Sawin, two Museum publications.



Science

The Museum has changing programs and exhibits in both the natural and the physical sciences.

Visit the exhibits: Small Science exhibits are designed to use simple everyday materials to explore sophisticated concepts. All derive from activities which are intrinsically interesting to children—rolling a golf ball down a roller coaster track, blowing a bubble, building an arch with milk carton blocks—and which serve as a basis for understanding important scientific principles.

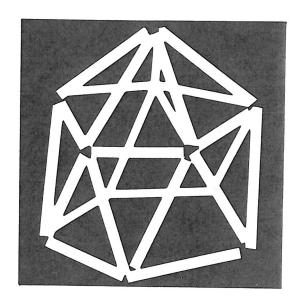
In the <u>Living Things</u> exhibit, you can open dozens of drawers to discover mini exhibits of shells, rocks, insects and plants. Young visitors can reconstruct a sheep skeleton, compare a snake skin to a live boa constrictor or examine a whale vertebra up close.

Use the Resource Center: The study built out of milk carton blocks is an appropriate setting for books and materials on art and technology, machinery and construction, and light and sound experiments. <u>Investigating Science With Rubber Bands</u> is one of dozens of intriguing titles.



A science Exploration

Frank Siteman

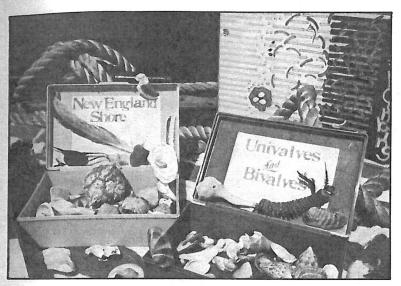


The natural science study has a useful focus: City Science. Here you'll find not only the usual natural science materials but also an unusual urban science collection: city science curriculum guides, books on wild plants in the city, pigeons, rodents and even cockroaches (books on those subjects—not actual representatives of the species). Idea sheets are available for the cost of duplicating and Museum publications (see below) may be borrowed.



And early version of the <u>Bubbles</u> exhibit

archival photo



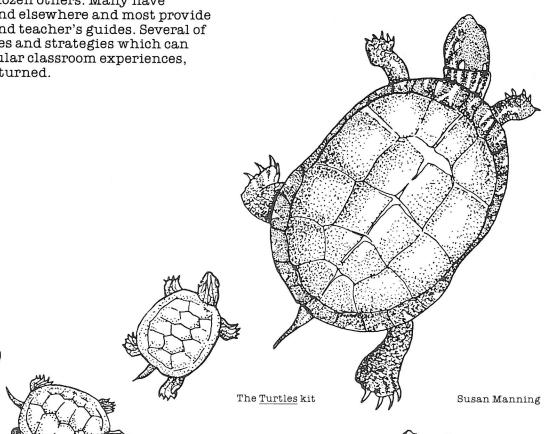
The Beachcombing kit

Lynn Whitney

Borrow a kit: Check out one of many classroom kits on the sciences: Rocks, Seeds, Birds, Animal Camouflage, Motion in Liquid and a dozen others. Many have specimens difficult to find elsewhere and most provide background materials and teacher's guides. Several of the kits present activities and strategies which can later become part of regular classroom experiences, after the kit has been returned.

Attend a seminar: Supermarket Science invites participants to try their hand at papermaking, experimenting with chemical indicators, crystal gardens and the dissection of fish and plants. Teaching Children about Technology and Integrating Art and Science offer an interesting mix of hands-on experiences—concocting dyes and perfumes, experimenting with spinning tops and water pumps, building domes and structures—and some philosophical discussion about how to approach science instruction with children.

Visit the Shop: Look for a series of Small Science books: Bubbles, Baking Chemistry, Ball Point Pens, Milk Carton Blocks, Water Pumps and Siphons, Drinking Straw Construction, all by Bernie Zubrowski. Ask about our new publication developed with The American Association for the Advancement of Science.

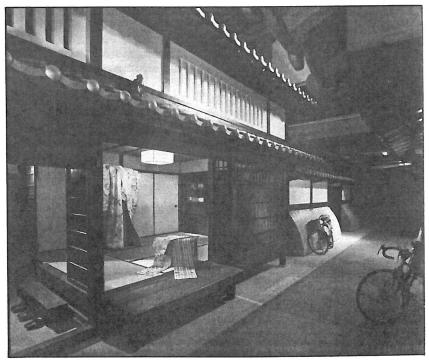


Japan

Visit the Japanese House: Although the Children's Museum has been teaching the public about Japan since 1914, our Japan Program expanded greatly in 1980 with the installation of the Kyo no machiya, an authentic two story artisan's house with adjoining garden and street. The Japanese House came from the silk-weaving district of Kyoto and was a gift from that city to its sister city Boston.

Use the Japanese Reading Room: Across from the <u>Japanese House</u>, you can explore print and audio-visual materials on many aspects of Japanese life. Japan-related events are posted on the bulletin board.

Attend a Teacher Seminar: Daily Life in Japan is a full day of resource sharing and activities including an extended visit to the Kyo nō machiya and ideas and resources for teaching about family life, schooling and other aspects of contemporary society. Workshops for secondary teachers are also offered during the school year. Past topics include Feudal Japan and Japan: Changing Patterns in Family Relations. For this year's offering, please contact the East Asian office. Landing on Your Feet in Japan is a two-session orientation course for first-time visitors to Japan and is usually offered in the early spring.



The Japanese House

Steve Rosenthal



Use Study Storage: Japan Study Storage houses the Museum's permanent collection of approximately 1500 objects. These artifacts of traditional and contemporary everyday life have been catalogued, "packaged" and displayed in a unique system developed by the Museum's Collections Department. You can make an appointment to view these objects as well as study extensive documentation.

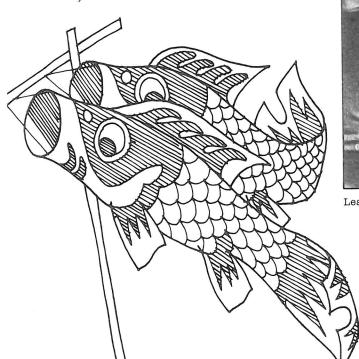
Plan an Exploration: Special single or multi-session courses for children in Grade 4 and above which explore Japanese culture may be arranged. The Resource Center can give you more information.

Borrow a kit: There are many . . . from a single activity kit which allows you to sample Japanese Calligraphy to an extensive multimedia curriculum unit on the Japanese Family.

Use the Resource Genter: Pick up a free idea sheet in the Resource Center. In addition to books and kits in the East Asian Study you'll find helpful bibliographies and instruction sheets for activities such as origami and brush writing. Films and tapes are also available for viewing in the Resource Center. Ask to see one of the many "Video Letters from Japan", 20 minute sketches of a day at school, Sunday in Tokyo....

Come to a celebration: Be "in the know" about upcoming events: Japanese New Year, exhibitions and arts demonstrations, films, speakers... bulletin boards and staff can tell you when and where to find all of these. Pick up a monthly calendar at one of the information desks.

Visit the Shop: Look for materials that provide activities (calligraphy stones and brushes, games, kites) enrich a library (Folk Traditions in Japanese Art, Sumi Techniques, The Japanese House, 17 Ways to Wrap an Egg) and enliven a home (vases, lacquer ware, lunchboxes, fabrics).



Andy Merriell



Learning origami

Jon Goell

Mative Americans

The Northeast and Across Indian America

Wisit the exhibit: We're Still Here presents an important message: Native American people are still living in New England and still actively involved in their culture. Visitors can enter and role play in a full-size accurately reconstructed wigwam and then compare that lifestyle to the one these people live today. Beadwork, basketry, food preparation, games and current events are used to demonstrate continuing traditions.

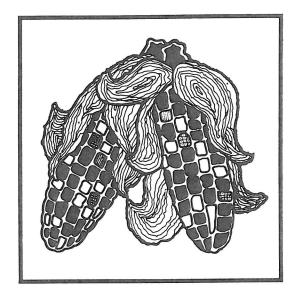
Use Study Storage: In a specially designed storage area, you can arrange to see and study objects from the Museum's 19th and 20th century Northeast American Indian collection. Study Storage is available to all interested visitors. High school teachers are encouraged to have students use this facility for individual research projects. Access to the American Indian collections from other parts of the country is available but requires a special appointment with the Curator.

Come to a celebration: Every spring the Museum honors Native American culture in New England with American Indian Day. Native American demonstrators share their knowledge of crafts, cooking, herbs, history, music and dance with Museum visitors. Pick up a monthly calendar at one of the information desks.



An exhibit interpreter with young visitors in the wigwam

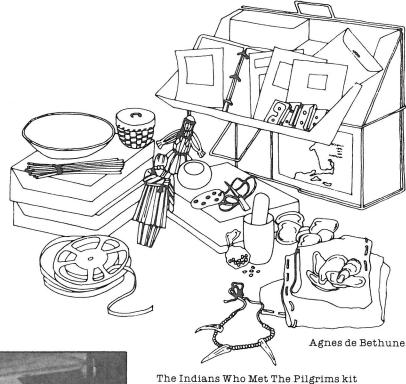
Tad Goodale



Attend a seminar: A general seminar, Native American Harvests, provides more information about Indian people in New England at a time of year when many schools focus on this culture. This workshop presents a day full of cooking and eating, along with a discussion about the cultural traditions and values that food preparation reveals. Workshops on cultural stereotypes and Thanksgiving from a Native American Perspective, consultation on curriculum development and referrals to Native American speakers and crafts people are also available.

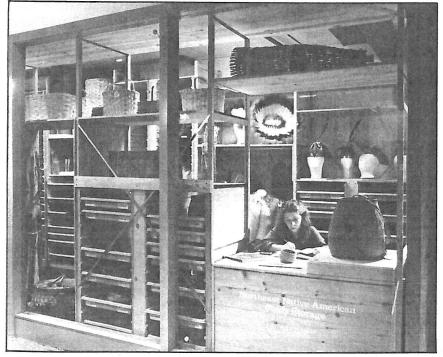
Borrow a kit: The Indians Who Met the Pilgrims presents the Wampanoag people of Massachusetts past and present. Hopi Culture describes a public kachina dance and its connection to contemporary Hopi culture. These kits may be used as curriculum units, include cultural objects, oral history, texts and guides, AV materials, classroom activities and have been prepared with the participation of American Indian people. Two other kits, The Navaho and Northwest Coast Indians contain cultural objects and related labels for a classroom exhibit.

Use the Resource Center: Here you will find carefully selected resources representing all the culture areas of Indian America. These include adult and children's books. slides, records, newspapers, maps and bibliographies. Most of our kits are also on display for previewing here.



Visit the Shop: Books are available. of course, but you will also find baskets, beadwork, games and crafts. Wampanoag Cooking by Helen Attaquin is a Museum publication in this area.

Plan an Exploration: Special single or multi-session programs can be scheduled for groups. For information call the Resource Center.



Collections objects in Study Storage

Steve Rosenthal

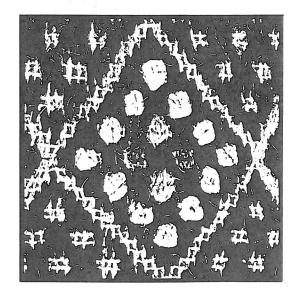
More Cultural Resources

Exhibits: We present cultural and cross-cultural exhibits on a rotating basis. Some of these have focussed on Africa, China, Eskimo Life and Boston's ethnic groups. New ones are being planned. Call the Resource Center for current information.

Use the Resource Center: Browse in our collection of books for children and adults, records, curricula and activities to enliven your social studies programs. Here you will find a good selection of books on multicultural games, crafts and cooking activities as well as background material on the history and celebrations of many nations.

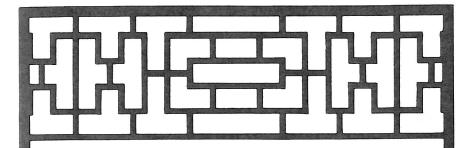
Attend a seminar: An annual favorite, held during <u>Black History Month</u>, is <u>African Arts</u>, where you can see examples of African crafts from our collections and make facsimiles using methods reproducible in the classroom. Other cultural seminars are offered from time to time.

Come to a celebration: Some of these are day-long fairs where members of Boston's ethnic communities give performances, make music, teach you their cuisine and invite you to learn about their cultural traditions. A longer festival is Black History Month during February. Programming for this includes performances by African and African American musicians, story tellers and dancers; participatory workshops led by Black craftspeople; a film series; drop-in



African craft activities; exhibits on Africa, the Black experience in the Caribbean, and Black Americans. During these festivals the Museum becomes a meeting ground where children from many ethnic groups can see their own and other cultures celebrated. Monthly calendars are available at the information desks.





China

Visit the Exhibit: In <u>A Market In China</u> visitors become part of a bustling street in urban China and learn about the objects and activities of daily life. The exhibit features the sights of Boston's sister city, Hangzhou, and the Hangzhou Children's Palace.

Attend a workshop: Workshops on China for elementary and secondary school teachers are scheduled throughout the year. These teacher training sessions include background information, classroom materials and hands-on activities.

Use the East Asian Study: We have collected some of the best print and non-print materials on China and made them available for browsing and borrowing in the Resource Center. Bibliographies and catalogues will help you in locating good resources.

Borrow a kit: Any of these kits will enrich a social studies program. Look for <u>Echoes of China</u> (with units on history, geography, architecture, celebrations and games, fine and folk arts, as well as a section on Chinese Americans), <u>Traditional China</u> and <u>Chinese Calligraphy</u>.

Visit the Shop: Folk toys, crafts supplies, and a wide assortment of books are among the many China resources in the Shop.

Borrow a kit: You'll find a wide range of cultural kits on many historical periods and many parts of the world:

- Ancient history comes alive in kits on Greece, Rome and Egypt.
- The Medieval People kit amplifies study of the Middle Ages, with a series of role playing activities and a complete set of costumes.
- Traditional and contemporary Eskimo life in Alaska are explored in two kits.
- West Africa is represented by kits on arts and on daily life.
- <u>Puerto Rico</u> and <u>Mexico</u> are two Hispanic kits, with more to come.
- Cross-cultural programs will be enriched by kits on <u>Multicultural Hopscotch</u>, <u>Puzzles</u> and <u>Bingo</u>.

We are always expanding our list of kits, so call us for the latest additions or if you would like to suggest new topics.



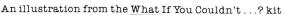
A calligraphy lesson Leslie Swartz

Special Weeds

Visit the Museum: Wednesday morning visits during the school year are reserved for special education groups. The Museum is open to the public, but only small groups are scheduled, allowing your group to explore the Museum with a minimum amount of noise and competition. Trained staff are available on a 1-1 or 1-2 ratio to accompany visitors. There are no restrictions on age or severity of handicap. The Museum is accessible to handicapped individuals and several staff use sign language.

What If You Couldn't...? is a rotating exhibit which is designed to explain a broad range of disabilities to non-disabled children. Young visitors can try on a prosthetic arm, put on a blindfold and travel through a maze using a cane, learn some sign language and act out a puppet show on emotional problems. Call the Resource Center to see if the exhibit is currently open. For information about renting this exhibit, call the Exhibit Center office.



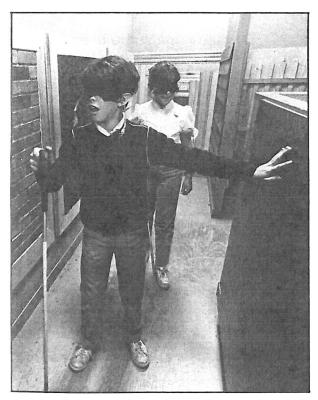




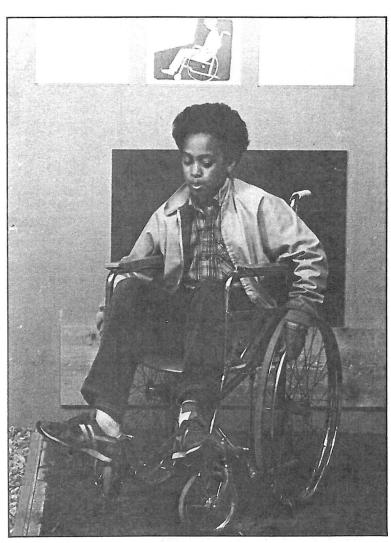
Attend a workshop: Special programs for families with disabled children which provide experiences for both disabled and non-disabled siblings are occasionally offered. For information, call the Resource Center.

Use the Resource Center: In the What If You Couldn't...? study you'll find a comprehensive selection of children's books about disabilities, as well as a good assortment of materials for parents and teachers. Directories, pamphlets and publications from advocacy groups are also available.

Visit the Shop: Many of the best trade books on special needs that we have been able to find are featured in the Museum Shop, forming the basis for a good classroom library on the subject. The Shop and RECYCLE are also good sources for tactile materials useful in classroom activities for children with special needs. Look for three Museum publications: What If You Couldn't...? A Book About Special Needs and Alvin, both by Janet Kamien, and Some Ways The Same, Some Ways Different by Aylette Jenness.



Practicing with a cane in <u>What If You Couldn't . . . ?</u> Richard Howard



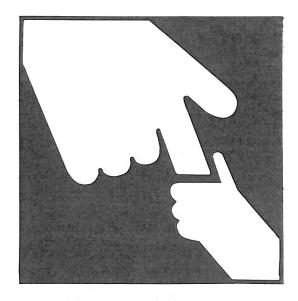
Trying to maneuver a wheelchair in $\underline{\text{What If You Couldn't}\dots?}$ Richard Howard

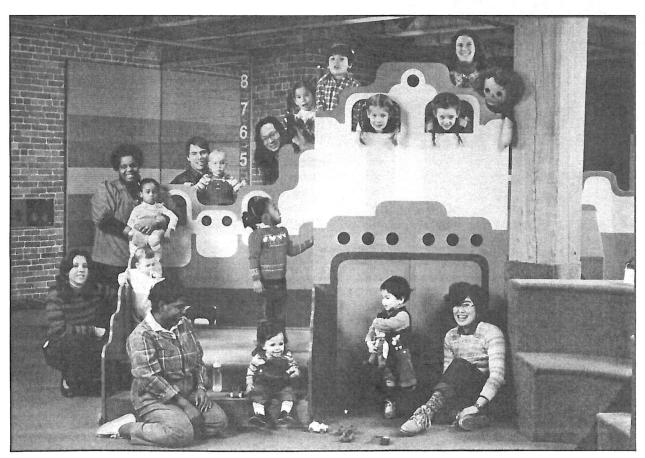
Borrow a kit: The What If You Couldn't...? kit replicates the exhibit experience in the classroom. Six disability areas are presented, with slides, tapes, braces, samples of braille, sign language playing cards and a wealth of other manipulative materials.

Barly Childhood

Visit Playspace: Children under five and their parents and teachers are the primary audience for the <u>Playspace</u> exhibit. Young visitors enjoy the "castle" structure, slide, car and gas tank, trains, dolls, blocks and daily activities. Visits can be booked Tuesday and Friday mornings for preschool, kindergarten and first grades. On these mornings activities appropriate to this young age can be found throughout the Museum.

Use the Parent Resource Room: In this comfortable environment adjoining <u>Playspace</u> teachers can browse through kits, books, activities and other early childhood materials. Collections of magazines, including <u>Growing Child</u>, <u>Working Mother</u> and <u>First Teacher</u> are available and seasonal topics are on display. Teachers who are Museum members may check out material for home use. Recipes for crafts, kids' cooking and holiday ideas are available from <u>Playspace</u> staff for the cost of duplicating.





The Playspace exhibit, families and staff

Richard Howard

Attend a seminar: Creative Experiences For Young Children presents recipes, activities, games and new ideas to brighten up a curriculum. This has been our most popular seminar. Early registration is the only way to gain a space here.

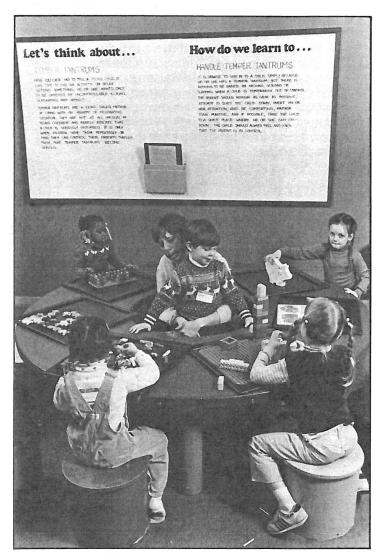
Borrow a kit: Playspace At Home, featuring equipment and instruction cards for more than 60 of our favorite activities, was especially designed for preschool caregivers and parents. Other kits popular with the younger set include: Water Play (full of tubs, tubes, pumps and vessels), Birds, Bones, Beachcombing, Rubber Stamp Printing, Multicultural Hopscotch, and Medical Stuff.

Visit the Shop: Copies of Museum publications can also be found here, as well as a good selection of parenting books, child development books, toys, games and supplies for activities especially suitable for young children.



Playing with the lockbox

Richard Howard



An interpreter and group at the activity table

Richard Howard

Use the Resource Center: Ask about the Introductory Tours for high school and college students in child development courses. A Museum visit focussed on observing children at play and an exploration of early childhood resources is part of this tour. In the library you will find three Museum publications: Activities for Anyone, Anytime, Anywhere by Jeri Robinson; Playspace: Family Spaces in Public Places by Jeri Robinson and Patricia Quinn; and Puppets by Museum staff.

Beginners of All Ages

Will Find Something at The Children's Museum

Exhibits and programs at the Museum are designed with many levels of access. This means, for example, that within a single exhibit there may be simple activities for very young children, more challenging tasks for older children, explanatory text for an adult and extensive resources for the enthusiast, the specialist or the teacher. But some areas and programs are geared for special audiences.

Exhibits Programs

Especially for preschool children and their teachers:

Playspace Waterplay Congress St. Superette "Toddlers Takeover" (a week in the spring) Workshops for childcare providers and teachers

Especially for younger elementary school children (grades 1-3) and their teachers:

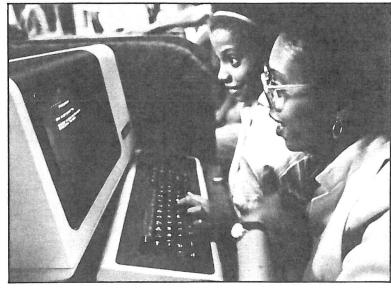
Most exhibits work well for this age group and older

Family workshops in the Resource Center for this age and older

Especially for older elementary school children (grades 4-6) and their teachers:

Computers and video exhibits Cultural exhibits Science exhibits The Afterschool
Program
(weekday activities and performances for kids ages 8-14)

Explorations
(single or
multi-session
courses on
Japan, Native
Americans,
Americana and
other topics)
Teacher seminars
(most topics)



The Computers exhibit

Co Rentmeester

Especially for students in grades 7-12 and their teachers:

Study Storage
(view the
Japanese and
Native American collections)

Detours (city
explorations
for teenagers)
Introductory tours
for child development classes
Teacher seminars
(several topics)

The Museum is now giving special attention to the interests of children ages 8-14. Watch for more programs for this age group in the future.

Locating the Museum

The Children's Museum, Boston

Museum Wharf 300 Congress Street Boston, Massachusetts 02210

All departments: (617) 426-6500 voice and TTY-TDD: (617) 426-6501

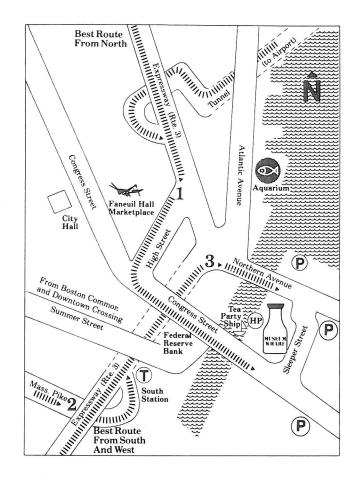
What's Up Line:

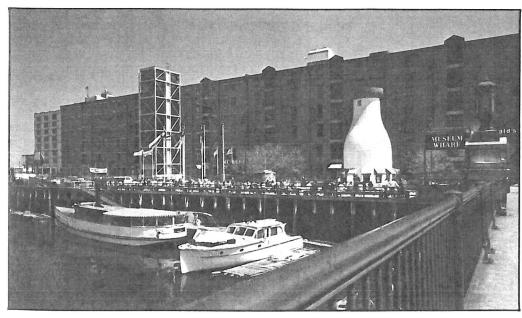
(617) 426-8855 (complete listing of exhibits, special events, hours, admission rates, and travel directions)

Group visits:

Advance reservation required; contact the Reservations Office

The Museum is easy to reach on Boston's waterfront. Follow Museum Wharf signs displaying our landmark milk bottle. From North: Expressway (Rte. 3) south to High St./Congress St. exit (#1), third left on Congress St. From West: Massachusetts Turnpike (Rte. 90) to Expressway (Rte. 3) north exit (#2). From South: Expressway (Rte. 3) north, Atlantic Ave./Northern Ave. exit (#3), immediate right over Northern Ave. bridge. Inexpensive parking on Northern Ave. and Sleeper St. Handicapped and preschool group parking in front of Museum off Congress St. Public transportation: MBTA Red Line to South Station plus a seven minute walk.





Museum Wharf

Steve Rosenthal

Boston Children's Museum A Directory for Teachers

UN ESTRATTO

in occasione della manifestazione promossa dal

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM di BOSTON

e dai

CENTRO INTERNAZIONALE RICERCHE CREATIVE ED EDUCATIVE GENOVA

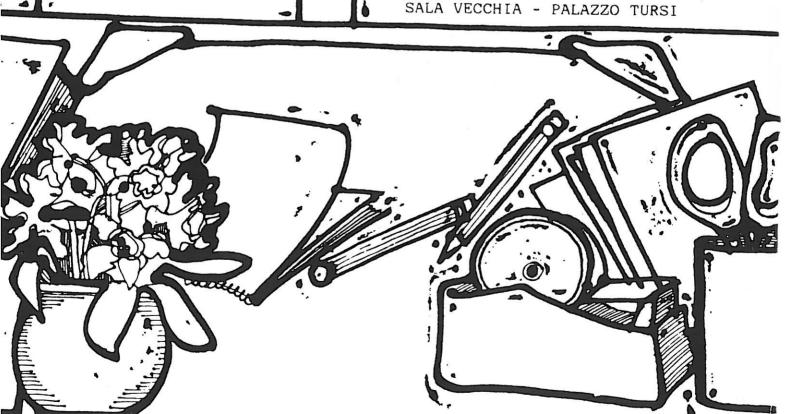
col patrocinio della

REGIONE LIGURIA ASSESSORATO ALLA CULTURA SERVIZIO PROMOZIONE CULTURALE

e dal

COMUNE DI GENOVA ASSESSORATO TURISMO E SPETTACOLO

GIOVEDI' 1 MARZO 1990 - ORE 17,30 SALA VECCHIA - PALAZZO TURSI



LA STORIA DEL MUSEO

Nel 1914 un gruppo di insegnanti del "Dipartimento Insegnanti di Scienze", decisero di porre i loro studenti piu' a contatto con le cose reali; volevano un posto dove poter scambiare idee e materiali, ed offrire materiale didattico a quei settori della citta' impossibilitati ad ottenerlo.

Fondarono quindi il Children's Museum di Boston per realizzare i loro obiettivi.

Gia' nel 1920 i programmi prevedevano il prestito dei materiali, ed il dott. Charles J. Douglas (presidente del Museo dal 1917 al 1927) sottolineava: - se mi fosse chiesto di descrivere il Museo in una frase, dovrei dire che si tratta di un'organizziazione didattica che usa le mostre del museo ed i suoi apparati come attrezzi, utensili, strumenti di lavoro. -

Nel 1962, il Direttore Michael Spock, anch'egli insegnante, porto' al Museo le sue idee riguardanti mostre con materiali e programmi interattivi.

Il Children's Museum si e' assunto il compito di aiutare tutti ad imparare da un mondo sempre piu' duro ed esigente, attraverso un'esperienza diretta nell'uso dei materiali della realta' stessa. -" Noi crediamo nell'apprendimento attraverso l'esperienza, sia che si tratti, ad esempio, di un argomento esplorativo vecchio di sei anni, come il gioco del"La scala del gigante", dove il telefono, il righello, il bicchiere, le graffe, gli occhiali, sono 12 volte piu' grandi, oppure si tratti di un insegnante che costruisce giochi matematici con materiale industriale di scarto, in un laboratorio di riciclaggio; in entrambe i casi viene coinvolto un processo di apprendimento.

Oggi il Museo dispone di personale con esperienza sia nel campo educativo che come curatori di programmi interattivi pronti da offrire ai bambini ed altrettanto utili ed affascinanti per gli insegnanti. Le mostre del Museo, il materiale, le collezioni ed i programmi si completano l'un l'altro e sono generalmente concentrati su sei temi principali:

- la cultura americana
- la scienze
- il Giappone
- gli indigeni americani
- studi delle diverse culture
- infanzia

questi temi riflettono la ricchezza della nostra collezione, l'esperienza del nostro staff ed il nostro compito di aiutare tutti coloro che iniziano, in qualsiasi eta', ad apprendere di piu' sul proprio mondo. Denominatore comune e' il nostro impegno didattico per l'insegnamento attraverso la scoperta dei materiali reali.

IL CENTRO MOSTRE

Cli insegnanti usano oggi il Museo in una grande varieta' di modi:

- per offrire ai bambini esperienze non possibili a scuola
- come stimolo per attivita' in classe
- come introduzione ad un argomento
- come conclusione allo studio di un argomento
- come stimolo ad un proprio personale apprendimento: per scoprire le proprie radici attraverso la vita del passato (per esempio la ricostruzione e percio' la riscoperta della casa dei nonni).

VIAGGI DI STUDIO

La maggior parte dei gruppi di bambini occupano la durata della loro visita al Museo con quella che noi chiamiamo " esplorazione nel tempo ".

Questo significa che dopo un programma introduttivo, i visitatori in questione, sono liberi di gestire il proprio tempo tra una mostra e l'altra a discrezione loro.

Naturalmente il personale specializzato e' a disposizione per aiutare i bambini a capire le mostre e per proporre attivita' utili ad arricchire l'apprendimento.

CENTRO RISORSE

Tenuto conto che la maggior parte dei bambini visitera' il Museo poche volte durante la crescita, questo genere di apprendimento attraverso l'esperienza puo' avvenire nelle scuole, nei centri comunitari e nelle case.

Per aiutare gli insegnti in questo forzo, il Museo gestisce un "centro risorse" che fornisce materiale didattico, idee ed esempi di attivita' da svolgere in classe.

Tutti i visitatori possono usufruire di questo centro gratuitamente ed i membri del Museo possono prendere in prestito il materiale.

