



AMERICAN HISTORY

2019 Field Trip Itinerary

Our demonstrations focus on American History from the late 1800's to the early 1900's and will offer the students a snapshot of what was happening in the country during that time period. The railroads and settlers were pushing west, towns were springing up, and gold was being discovered. Back in the east, the country was experiencing the greatest period of invention and manufacturing that the world had ever seen. The students will learn through a combination of explanation and hands on experience from our trained docents.

RAILROADING

Topics covered - A costumed docent will explain the importance of the railroads and their role in the westward expansion, the immigrant crews that built them, and how a steam locomotive works. Students will compete in a rail laying competition and ride on the C.P. Huntington train.

PIONEER WOMAN

Topics covered – A costumed docent will explain how the westward journey was made by covered wagon, including items and amounts of food necessary, sleeping on the trail using a prairie bed, the basics of Plains Indian sign language, and a short reading from a pioneer girls diary. Hands on activity will be the students preparing the covered wagon for a steep descent.

GOLD PANNING

Topics covered – At our recreated mining operation a costumed docent will explain how, with the discovery of gold in California in 1848, the rush was on that brought thousands of people west. Students will try their hand at panning for gold pyrite and can keep what they find.

MUSEUM INVENTION AND TECHNOLOGY TOUR

This session, comprised of two parts, will be the same time length as the other demonstrations

1. Invention Demonstration

Topics covered – Some of the world's greatest inventions including the phonograph, electric light bulb, motion pictures, the telephone, and other technologies made in the eastern United States that supported the development of the American West will be discussed and demonstrated. Students will get a chance to handle authentic cylinder and disc recordings, vintage telephones, and other items and learn how they work.

2. Silent Movie Theater

Topics covered - In 1900, motion pictures were a new invention. Experience what attending a movie was like in the days before "talking pictures". Students will watch the 1903 classic "Great Train Robbery" with docent narration of how the early movies were filmed.

All of the above demonstrations last 25 minutes each. There will be 4 morning sessions and one after lunch session followed by free time for the students to explore other attractions at the park.