



GOLDEN GRYPHON

Thank you for volunteering your time to participate as a “Museum Guide” during the upcoming Golden Gryphon Ancient Civilizations Educational Event.

Your involvement is critical to ensuring that the students have an engaging and meaningful experience! With that said, please do not feel intimidated. It is an opportunity for yourself to learn and have fun as well, and the majority of the station activities are very hands-on.

In this document, we hope to provide a brief overview of the program so that you can be prepared to assist on the day of the event, however we will also have 15-20 minutes scheduled ahead of the start time to go over each station, give a demonstration, and then answer any questions.

Section 1: Civilizations

Please find a short description of each civilization. Each civilization is associated with a colour as well, so that will serve as a visual cue.

1. Mesopotamia



Ancient Mesopotamia, located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, was home to the Sumerians, known for innovations like the wheel and cuneiform writing. They practiced advanced agriculture with irrigation, and Hammurabi's Code established early legal principles. The people were polytheistic, worshiping various gods, and the region saw the rise and fall of empires like the Assyrians and Babylonians. Despite its decline, Mesopotamia's contributions in writing, mathematics, and agriculture left a lasting legacy on future civilizations.

2. Egypt



Ancient Egypt, situated along the Nile, excelled in architecture, agriculture, and culture. Known for monumental structures like the pyramids, intricate hieroglyphics, and advanced irrigation, the Egyptians also practiced a complex religious system. Their belief in an afterlife led to practices like mummification. Over time, powerful dynasties like the New Kingdom rose and fell, leaving a lasting legacy through contributions such as the calendar and monumental structures.

3. China



Ancient China, situated along the Yellow River, excelled in engineering with the Great Wall, sophisticated writing with characters, and advanced agriculture like terrace farming. Influential philosophies like Confucianism and Daoism shaped governance and societal values. Dynasties like the Qin and Han marked imperial strength, and inventions such as papermaking, the compass, and silk production had a lasting impact on global history.

4. Mayan Empire



Ancient Maya, thriving in Mesoamerica, showcased advanced architecture with city-states like Tikal and intricate pyramids. Their hieroglyphic writing and complex calendar revealed intellectual sophistication. Advanced agriculture and trade, along with distinctive religious practices like pyramid ceremonies and ball games, characterized their society. Despite a mysterious decline, the Maya's contributions, including monumental architecture and calendrical advancements, continue to fascinate our understanding of ancient cultures.

4.5 Haudenosaunee



The Haudenosaunee (*hoe-dee-no-SHOW-nee*) meaning “people who build a house.” are some of the indigenous tribes of Southern Ontario. Also known as the Iroquois Confederacy, and later Six Nations, these were the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and later on, the Tuscarora. They all lived in big houses called longhouses where many families stayed together. The Haudenosaunee were really good at growing important crops like corn, beans, and squash, which they called the "Three Sisters." They had strong rules about fairness and agreed on things together.

5. Rome



Ancient Rome, along the Tiber River, showcased exceptional architecture with the Colosseum and aqueducts. The Roman Republic's legal system, seen in the Twelve Tables, influenced modern governance. Advanced engineering in roads and bridges connected the vast Roman Empire. Rome's rich culture and influential figures, like Julius Caesar, left a lasting impact. Despite its decline, Rome's contributions in law, engineering, and governance continue to shape contemporary societies.

6. Medieval Europe



Medieval Europe, from the fall of Rome to the Renaissance, featured Gothic cathedrals, feudalism, and chivalry. Dominated by powerful kingdoms and a strong influence of the Catholic Church, the era also saw the emergence of medieval universities and the preservation of ancient knowledge, setting the stage for the intellectual growth that would unfold in the Renaissance.

Section 2. Costumes (*optional*)



This part of the event is optional, depending on the package that your school has booked.

Your assigned civilization group will be directed to a bag of individually packaged costumes. There will likely be more costumes than needed to provide one for each student.

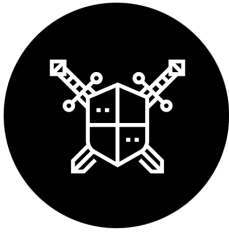
Please choose the most regal costumes first (Royalty, like Kings/Emperors) and then move down the social hierarchy for the rest of the selections. Each costume includes a card on a lanyard that lists the item inventory included with the costume, and also a description of who the costume represents on the flip side. Once all the students in your group are dressed, please help them to go over their tags so that they can identify any trouble spots for reading them.

Students will be seated, then asked to read the description from their tag. Following this, they will be dismissed to change out of the costumes. If possible, please help them fold the costumes neatly and ensure all items are returned to their bags.

Section 3. Stations

Each of the 6 stations will have full printed instructions at the table for your reference.

1. Weapons & Armour



This station features a chronological demonstration of armour and weapons with many hands-on experiences. A true highlight.

This will be handled by Golden Gryphon staff, and not a volunteer.

2. Knowledge & Achievement



This Station contains 2 parts.

The 1st part involves letting students create a bookmark with their own initials painted on with a reed stylus using Egyptian hieroglyphics. There will be black smocks for the children to wear in order to protect their clothing. At the end of the session, the paint table will need a quick tidying, including washing the styluses for the next group

The 2nd, is a brief teaching time in which you will read some multiple choice questions that explain a number of artifacts that will be laid out on a sheet.

3. Architecture



There are 2 portions to this mostly free-form station. The first involves reading the descriptions of our architectural models (*A replica of the Great Wall of China, Haudenosaunee LongHouse and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon will be on display.*)

Once the seated presentation is done, the students should be divided up to try the pyramid puzzles, building the block sets of the Mayan Temple & Roman Colosseum, and also firing the catapult at the Medieval Castle.

4. Sports & Recreation



This station will start with gathering the students around the display table and reading the descriptions of the artifacts placed here. Following this your group will be able to try 2 activities. The first is participating in Archery. The other is trying Pok-a-tok (a Mayan ball game). Once all students have had a turn to try archery, the ball game can begin.

5. Entertainment



This station will also start with gathering the students around the display table and reading the descriptions of the artifacts placed here. Following this your group will be able to line up at the chariot, which will have a loop set out around the gym. Please encourage the students to take care when lifting and setting down the chariot.

6. Food & Agriculture



At this station each student will be provided a gathering basket and a list of food items. For the first half of the allotted time, have the students gather all the items on their list from the food table. They do not need to get every item on their list.

During the 2nd half, have the students sit and ask the questions provided.

A helper will come during this time and return the food items from the baskets to the table.

FOLLOWING THE LAST STATION:

Please take a few minutes to help pack up the contents of the station into their tote boxes for storage. The Students will likely be excused for a number of minutes to wash their hands before the feast.

Section 4. The Feast (*Optional*)



Following the stations, if your school has opted to include the Medieval Feast, you are invited to stay and dine with the students. You will have the honour of being seated at the head table with the teachers. The menu consists of roasted chicken drumsticks, glazed carrots, buns, grape juice, with a pastry for dessert.

If you have additional time available, following the feast, we would appreciate a quick hand with clearing the tables, but this of course is not expected.

Thank you!

If you've enjoyed your time, we'd love to hear your feedback.

ancientciv.ca/feedback