

## **Engaging Activities at the Aquatarium**

### **Singer Castle (History, Art)**

Step into the past and experience a small piece of *Singer Castle – Castle of Mysteries*. From the upholstered bench to the secret passageway, Aquatarium's Singer Castle library replica has been built to resemble the real thing down to the smallest of details.

How many similarities can your students find between the picture of the library and our library replica?

Are some students feeling musical? Have them compose a musical piece on the virtual piano.

Do you have any budding detectives in your class? Challenge them to find the secret passageway!

Teach your kids about a significant local individual during the early 1900s – Frederick G. Bourne – the man responsible for the Singer Manufacturing Company, which became one of the most successful businesses in the world!

### **Power of Water (Social Studies, Geography, Science and Technology)**

Have you ever wondered what the bottom of the St. Lawrence River looks like? Is your class investigating how water flows? Do you have a student who would love to learn more about the lost cities in Morrisburg?

Are you looking for a way to make your lesson on hydroelectricity interactive? Look no further than our Power of Water exhibit.

Have students make observations about the underwater land masses found in the St. Lawrence River. Discuss how these land masses contribute to our different currents and water depths and test it out on one of the tables in our exhibit.

Divide your class into two teams and see which team can build the most efficient water path to power the dam in our Hydro Dam station. Can they generate 12 points of hydroelectricity on the table for 15 seconds?

### **Green Screen (Arts, Language)**

Are you planning a unit on media literacy? Perhaps you're looking to introduce your class to the dramatic arts and role play?

Students will love the opportunity to step into the role of a reporter and cover breaking news from the 1000 Islands region! We will provide the script and your students can do the rest!

### **Creation (Geography, Science and Technology)**

Take your students back in time – 10,000 years ago to be exact – when the St. Lawrence River and surrounding area was completely under water and was known as the Champlain Sea!

Introduce your students the various creatures that would have roamed the sea floor. Have students differentiate between an invertebrate and vertebrate animal. What might the needs and characteristics of these species be? What might their habitat have looked like 10,000 years ago?

How has this particular landform changed? What might have caused this change?

Have students discover the different types of rocks and fossils in the Creation exhibit. Can they identify one, or all of them? Don't forget to have students look above their heads and check out the replica skeleton of the beluga whale!

### **HMS Ontario (History)**

Become part of the HMS Ontario crew, a British warship built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and used during the American Revolutionary War. Our captain's cabin allows your students to feel as though they are on the ship. With an interactive table in the center of the room, students can learn about four different artifacts.

Give students a look into a historical event that affected Canada between 1712 and 1800. Have them travel around the HMS Ontario exhibit and challenge them to learn facts about the ship itself and how it was involved in the American Revolutionary War.

Have students describe what they see in the captain's cabin, how they feel, questions they might have for the crew if they were to speak with them today.

Have students explore drama and role play and take on the roles of captain and crew!

### **SS Kingston (Geography)**

Explore how human activities changed the physical environment through the paddle steamer SS Kingston! Once a popular ferry for travel down the St. Lawrence River in the early 1900s, the SS Kingston exhibit allows students to experience travel before cars, trains and buses!

Encourage students to explore the interactive touchscreen and discover more about the St. Lawrence River region before the travel industry changed dramatically. What did the St. Lawrence River look like during the time the SS Kingston was in service? What does it look like now? What might the pros and cons be of both situations?

### **Sir Robert Peel (Social Studies, History)**

Introduce students to a significant individual in the mid-1800s, Bill Johnston, a real-life pirate! Johnston and his team of American and Canadian patriots were responsible for seizing, looting and burning down the Sir Robert Peel, a Canadian steamboat, and fueling the flames of war between the United States and Britain. The Sir Robert Peel sank and took her final resting place on the bottom of the St. Lawrence River in 1838.

Challenge your students to research the Sir Robert Peel and determine what war occurred in Canada along the St. Lawrence River in 1838.

Encourage students to connect how the sinking of the Sir Robert Peel fueled the flames of the Patriot War, and have students align themselves with either the pirates or the British colonial power. This would make a great classroom role-playing opportunity, or a great debate.

### **Skiff House (Physical Education)**

Do you have students who are always moving their body? Encourage them to challenge a friend to a rowing race! They will burn some energy and at the same time get a taste of what it's like to row, possibly inspiring a new hobby!

### **Wind Wall (Geography, Science and Technology)**

Teach students to navigate the wind by creating a sailboat on wheels and moving it through the tunnel using wind generated by our powerful fans! While exploring this activity with your class, have them keep in mind math and science concepts, such as angles, force, movement, and power.

Have students challenge each other to a sailboat race.

Encourage students to make note of the cardinal directions on the wall and use the appropriate wording when moving their sailboats.

Afterwards, go outside and view the sailboats moving along the St. Lawrence River – have students make connections between the activity and real-life.

Create a weathervane with your class and explore the four main cardinal directions on various types of maps. Why would these directions be especially important for sailors?

### **Aquaria (Science and Technology)**

Dive into the St. Lawrence River and swim with the fish – without getting wet! Your class can get to know the three main types of fish found in the St. Lawrence River – shore fish, river fish, lake fish.

Students can use the interactive tablets to identify the many fish in Aquaria and challenge each other to see who can identify the most!

In the classroom, students can create three -dimensional fish based on their favorite species.

Discuss various topics with your class, such as biodiversity, how fish change and grow, the needs and characteristics of the fish in the St. Lawrence River and how humans interact with the fish in our region.

### **Herpetology (Science and Technology)**

Looking to create an interactive lesson on the needs and characteristics of living things? Are you creating a Habitats and Communities Unit? The herpetology exhibit can help you spark your students' interest in living creatures, how they thrive and how humans can impact their survival.

Challenge your students to identify the animals found in herpetology.

Can your students distinguish between a reptile and an amphibian?

Discuss with your class the threats that Ontario turtles are facing and how they can help make a difference!

Can you students spot the invasive species?

### **Otters (Science and Technology)**

Come and see our Aquatarium mascots – the otters! Your students will get to see river otters up close and get a sense of why they are known as very playful animals.

Encourage your students to identify how the otter exhibit might be similar to the otter's habitat in the wild. What might be different?

Before the otter feeding, have your students guess what they eat – were they right? Surprised?

Challenge your students to find out why an otter is considered an *indicator species*.

### **Magedoma (History)**

Cruise down the St. Lawrence River through the eyes of Senator George Taylor Fulford, a prominent Canadian figure in the early 1900s. The screens in the Magedoma exhibit will allow your class to experience the St. Lawrence River 100 years in the past!

Challenge your students to find out what Senator George T. Fulford was famous for creating.

Can anyone figure out how the name Magedoma came to be?

While your students are on the virtual tour, have them make observations of what looks the same and what looks different along the St. Lawrence River.