

# Discover: River of Time (Grades 2-12)

## Program Description:

This outdoor walking tour in downtown Grand Rapids will introduce students to the significance of the Grand River to the history of Grand Rapids, including how the area was first identified by indigenous peoples, how it supported Grand Rapids' growth into a major city, how it has been used for industry and health, how it has been changed by humans, and future redevelopment plans for the river. They will also be able to describe the contributions of various historical figures who have contributed to the establishment of the city we know today.

*\*\*Note: In the event of inclement weather, this program will take place inside of the Museum\*\**

## What content standards align with this program?

**Michigan Social Studies Strands:** H1 The World in Temporal Terms: Historical Habits of Mind, H2 Living and Working Together in Families and Communities, Now and Long Ago, H3 The History of Michigan and the Great Lakes Region, G1 The World in Spatial Terms: Geographical Habits of Mind, G2 Places and Regions, G3 Physical Systems, G4 Human Systems, G5 Environment and Society, C3 Structure and Functions of Government, P1 Reading and Communication, P2 Inquiry Research and Analysis

ELA Common Core Standards for Speaking and Listening

## Museum Program Strand:

- Help learners tell, interpret, create, and share compelling stories so no history is ignored or untold

## This program is aligned with the following Museum Learner Outcomes:

Holders of Foundational Knowledge	Masters of Fundamental Literacies	Original Thinkers for an Uncertain World	Generous Collaborators for Tough Problems	Learners For Life
X				

## What will students know and be able to do after completing this program?

- Students will be able to describe the uses of the Grand River and its importance in settlement, development, and recreation in Grand Rapids.
- Students will be able to provide examples of various historical figures who have contributed to the establishment of the city we know today.
- Students will be able to compare and contrast Grand Rapids from the past and present and hear about the plans for what it may look like in the future.

## What questions will students answer?

- How has Grand Rapids changed over time?
- How has the Grand River, Michigan's longest river, played an important role in the city's settlement, development, and recreation?
- Who were the early inhabitants of West Michigan?
- How have technological advancements from pioneer days to present changed the landscape of life in West Michigan?
- What is the purpose/significance of various markers and buildings in Grand Rapids?

## Key Vocabulary and Content

Ah-Nab-Awen

Hopewell  
Anishinabek  
Tribes of the Three Fires--Potawatomi, Odawa (Ottawa), Ojibwe (Chippewa)  
O-Wash-Ta-Nong  
Lake Sturgeon  
Furniture City  
Logging  
Log Jam  
Lucius Lyon  
Louis Campau  
Redevelopment  
Restoration  
Spirit of Solidarity

**Materials List and Setup:**

Wireless headset and amplifier  
Field journals

**Program Activities (Outdoor Tour): 60 minutes**

1. Introduction at Old City Hall Clock Tower Bell outside Van Andel Museum Center entrance
  - a. Safety guidelines and expectations
2. Ah Nab Awen Park--Native American settlement
  - a. Hopewell Indians: mound builders
  - b. Sketch what you think the riverfront would look like as it did with Hopewell mounds and an Anishinabe village
  - c. Three Fires Tribes: Potawatomi, Odawa (Ottawa), Ojibwe (Chippewa)
3. Gillett Bridge--European settlement
  - a. Anishinabe Culture
  - b. Settlement in 1800s: trade relationships and development of Furniture City
  - c. Working on the River: lumberjacks, river driving, Log Jam of 1883
  - d. Write about what it would be like to be a lumberjack and other wonderings
4. Lucius Lyon Statue--Discussion of city founders
  - a. Lucius Lyon v. Louis Campau: name of city, plan for roadways
  - b. Fill entry in field journal comparing Lyon and Campau
5. Exhibitors Building
  - a. Then and Now: hosted furniture markets; shops, offices, meeting rooms
  - b. Sketch the medallion on the Exhibitors Building that represent furniture workers
6. Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
  - a. Site of Louis Campau's trading post
  - b. Rosa Parks Circle: location of Campau's cabin and blacksmith shop
  - c. Monroe Street and Pearl Street: banks of the river, small islands
7. St. Mark's Episcopal Church
  - a. Oldest public building still standing in Grand Rapids
  - b. Built with limestone quarried from the Grand River
8. Changes to the River--Looking ahead to the future
  - a. Grand Rapids White Water River restoration project
  - b. Anishinabe mural under Pearl Street Bridge
9. Grand Rapids Public Museum at Van Andel Museum Center
  - a. Wrap up and final discussion of takeaways