

## Discover: The First People of this Place (Grades 4-8)

### Program Description:

Grand Rapids has a cultural history dating back to 200 BCE, and GRPM exhibits and collections tell this history through the objects, documents, artwork and personal accounts. *The First People of this Place* program takes the participant through the timeline of West Michigan learning about the Hopewell, Anishinabek and the introduction to newcomers. Learners will investigate artifacts, explore the Grand Fish, Grand River and Anishinabek: People of this Place exhibits and engage in activities showcasing the culture of West Michigan's first inhabitants.

### What content standards align with this program?

**Michigan K-12 Social Studies Standards:** 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, G2 Places and Regions, G4 Human Systems, G5 Environment and Society, P1 Reading and Communication, P2 Inquiry Research and Analysis

**ELA Common Core Standards for Reading**

**NGSS Science and Engineering Practices:** Constructing Explanations

### Museum Program Strand:

- Cultivate a community of empathetic contributors who value diversity
- 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	X			X	

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

- Students will be identify the first inhabitants of Michigan and understand that humans have lived in Michigan for thousands of years.
- Students will be able to describe how the clothing, food, shelter, and technology of Michigan's Native Americans has evolved over time.
- Students will analyze examples of traditional and modern Anishinabek culture using artifacts and exhibits.

### What questions will students answer?

- How did the lives of Native Americans change from Pre-Contact to Post Contact?
- What evidence do we have of the existence of the first inhabitants?
- What was the role of elders in the community?
- What influences did newcomers have on the daily life and ceremonies of Native Americans?

## Key Vocabulary

Anishinabek  
Potawatomi  
Odawa (Ottawa)  
Ojibwe (Chippewa)  
O-Wash-Ta-Nong  
Lake Sturgeon  
Hopewell  
Artifacts  
Food, Clothing, Shelter  
Wigwam  
Pre-Contact (with Europeans)  
Post-Contact (with Europeans)

## Materials List and Setup:

Pre-Contact Anishinabek Artifacts Basket  
Post-Contact Anishinabek Artifacts Basket  
Student worksheet

## Program Activities: 60 minutes

1. Introduction at Michigan map on third floor
  - a. Anishinabe
  - b. Three Fires Tribes: Potawatomi, Odawa (Ottawa), Ojibwe (Chippewa)
2. *Grand Fish, Grand River* Exhibit
  - a. Hopewell Indians: mound builders
  - b. Pre-Contact Anishinabek artifact exploration and discussion
    - i. What does pre-contact mean?
    - ii. Traditional materials
3. *Great Lakes Fur Trader* Exhibit
  - a. Post-Contact Anishinabek artifact exploration and discussion
    - i. What does post-contact mean?
    - ii. How did Anishinabek culture change after interactions with Europeans?
4. *Anishinabek: People of this Place* Exhibit
  - a. Content review
  - b. Exhibit exploration: Students are prompted to apply what they've learned to identify examples of pre-contact and post-contact objects.
  - c. Wrap up and final discussion of takeaways