

History Scavenger Hunt

Be curious.
GRAND
RAPIDS
PUBLIC
MUSEUM

GRPM Collections Database.

Use this scavenger hunt to explore artifacts and specimens in the [GRPM's digital Collections](#). This scavenger hunt will help you explore key parts of history at several levels - our city, our state, our country and our world!



Grand Rapids History

The area of Grand Rapids is part of the ancestral territory of the People of the Three Fires, the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi, who were here before the city's settlement. Grand Rapids was officially established as a U.S. city in 1850.

1. A combination of a successful logging industry, hydroelectric power on the Grand River and innovative design led to Grand Rapids becoming known as “Furniture City” in the late 1800s. Discover how designs have changed over the years in the [Grand Rapids Furniture Timeline](#) Curator Gallery.

a. Identify the designer/maker of each piece of furniture

Answer Bank:

- Berkey & Gay Furniture Co.
- Johnson Furniture Company
- William “Deacon” Haldane
- Stickley Brothers Furniture Company
- Steelcase
- Frank Lloyd Wright
- Herman Miller Inc.



b. Challenge: Using materials from around the house, create your own signature furniture piece inspired by these Grand Rapids designs!

Be curious.

2. Before Grand Rapids was known as “Furniture City” another industry ran the city: gypsum mining.



Pictured above: Interior of gypsum mine in Grand Rapids, circa 1920-1940.



Pictured above: alabaster gypsum specimen

a. What materials was [gypsum](#) used to create?

b. Read the backstory on this [Miners' Lamp](#) from 1915.

i This style lamp was only used for a few years because it was so dangerous. **Why were these lamps so dangerous?**

ii It was common for several generations of one family to work in the mining industry. **How many generations of the Apted family worked for the same company?**

Michigan History

Modern-day history in Michigan focuses on the automobile industry, tourism and agriculture. Take a step back into Michigan's history before assembly lines and automation were common.

Did you know? - The state of Michigan was founded in 1837. Its name, Michigan, is adapted from an Ojibwe word meaning “big water.”



3. Explore the [Great Lakes Fur Traders](#) Exhibit Gallery. Fur trade between the Europeans and Native Americans was a 250-year industry in this area that began long before Michigan became a state.

a. Which animal was largely over-hunted to create fur top hats?

b. Find the artifact that Rix Robinson owned. Where was his trading post located?

c. Which of the fur trade items, pictured below, do you think would be most useful for people trying to survive in Michigan's wilderness in the 1800s? You can click each item's link to learn more. **Draw a picture to describe how the item might have been used.**



Kettle
[Identifier: 176519](#)

Axe
[Identifier: 137937](#)

Mukuk, birch bark container
[Identifier: 4490](#)

Wooden spoon
[Identifier: 112043](#)

Animal trap
[Identifier: 148359](#)

A large rectangular area enclosed by a dotted line, intended for drawing a picture to describe how the most useful item might have been used.

Describe why you think this is the most useful item to survive in the wilderness.

Four horizontal lines for writing a description.



Identifier: 2020.2.8

Identifier: 1993.98.4.58

4. The logging industry is a crucial part of Michigan history; not only was lumber used to build settlements, but it was also an important item for trade and manufacturing. Explore the [Logging in Michigan](#) Teacher Gallery.

a. Find a photograph that shows a person working.
Photograph Title:

What is happening in this image?

Imagine what it would be like to do this work.
Do you think it'd be difficult or easy? Fun or boring?

b. Find a photograph that includes a body of water a river or lake.
Photograph Title:

What is the name of the body of water?

Describe how the water is being used to support the logging industry?



Identifier: 2015.1.15



Identifier: 205036

United States History

In its short history (less than 250 years!), the United States has experienced many significant events. Explore artifacts with connections to influential leaders, life-changing conflicts, and to the immigrants who built the foundation of this country.

5. Explore the [Presidential Mementos](#) Gallery. Here you'll find a variety of presidential mementos, some with interesting connections to Grand Rapids.

- Which president is shown in this [1936 photograph](#) riding down Monroe Avenue in Grand Rapids?
- What was the name of President Herbert Hoover's pet dog shown in this [signed photograph](#)?
- Challenge: Plot the dates of a few of your favorite presidential mementos from the gallery on the timeline below.

1776

- Visit the [Newcomers: The People of This Place](#) Exhibit Gallery, which examines the experiences of immigrants who have traveled to the United States and shares the stories and cultural traditions of all the ethnic groups that call West Michigan home.



Sketch and color:

An artifact you've used in real life.

An artifact you've never seen before.

An object related to food or cooking

An article of clothing.

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Identifier: [136637](#)

7. Explore the [I Want You! World War I Posters](#) Curator Gallery. In recognition of this important event in history, the GRPM has selected posters from its Collections that demonstrate important issues at the heart of the war efforts.

Did you know? - World War I, 1914-1918, was the most devastating global war in history. In the United States alone, over 4,000,000 military personnel were mobilized and more than 100,000 were killed.



Identifier: [136631.10](#)

- a. Soldiers in Europe struggled with starvation and food shortages, so food was shipped over from the United States. To support this effort and make sure the supply of food was strong, all Americans were asked to reduce their personal food consumption, especially meat, wheat, and fatty foods that could be shipped overseas easily.
- b. The importance of conserving food was communicated in many WWI propaganda posters. **Search through the gallery and find examples of 3 different kinds of food shown in the posters.**

- c. These posters were also designed to inspire patriotism. Patriotism is defined as strong support for your country. **Find 3 examples of American patriotism symbolized in these posters.** *Hint: Look for colors and images that symbolize America, such as our flag.*

Challenge: Create your own persuasive poster. Can you convince your family members to do your chores?

World History

Recorded history of the world spans many millennia. Discover these artifacts that range from ancient history to the more recent past.

8. Check out this [Clay Tablet](#); it is a letter written from Tushratta, an ancient Mesopotamian king, to the King of Egypt.



a. What do you notice about the characters on this tablet? Does it remind you of anything that exists in modern times?

b. How is cuneiform **different** from the modern written languages that you use?

c. Challenge: Use modeling clay or playdough to create your own clay tablet with a special message.

Did you know: Many scholars consider cuneiform writing, produced by ancient peoples such as the Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians and Hittites, to be the earliest written language on Earth.

9. Examine this [Suit of Armor](#) with Chain Mail and Sword made around 500 years ago!

In which European country was this artifact created?

- a. England
- b. Germany
- c. Scotland
- d. Norway

How heavy was this full suit of armor?

- a. 50 pounds
- b. 10 pounds
- c. 65 pounds
- d. 5 pounds

Use your imagination: Sketch or describe what you think it would have been like to be a knight wearing this armor 500 years ago.



10. Look at this [lava medallion](#) artifact.

The lava in this medallion came from which famous volcano?

- a. Mount Saint Helens, United States
- b. Krakatoa, Indonesia
- c. Mount Vesuvius, Italy
- d. Mount Fuji, Japan

Did you know: This volcano erupted in 79 AD and completely destroyed the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum!



b. What was the date of this volcano's last eruption?

11. Check out the [Berlin Wall](#) section which is located near the entrance of the GRPM. The Berlin Wall divided the city of Berlin into two sections: East and West Berlin.

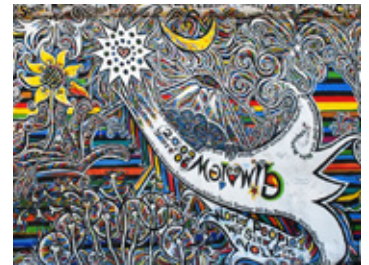
The Berlin Wall stood for _____ years.

- a. 13
- b. 34
- c. 28
- d. 37

Who purchased this section of the Berlin Wall and donated it to the GRPM?

When the Berlin wall was rebuilt and raised to be 14 feet tall in the 1980s, it became a huge blank canvas for graffiti artists. Artists in West Berlin, covered the wall in artwork representing self-expression, thoughts and beliefs.

Practice your own self-expression and sketch a graffiti-inspired art mural below.



A large, empty rectangular area with a dotted border, intended for a student to sketch a graffiti-inspired art mural.