



Galt

MUSEUM
& ARCHIVES

stories unfolding...

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TEACHER'S MANUAL

SIMLETHBRIDGE

Teacher's Guide

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This teacher's guide offers background information and ideas for classroom activities designed to complement a visit to the Galt. It contains information to assist you in planning your visit, information and activities for both before and after your visit, and outlines what you can expect from your education program.

The Galt's Mission

The Galt Museum & Archives engages and educates our communities in the human history of Southwestern Alberta by preserving and sharing collections, stories and memories that define our identity and guide our future.

Program Overview

SimLethbridge uses mapping exercises to take students through Lethbridge's development in order for them to understand how and why it became the community it is today.

Program Length

SimLethbridge runs throughout the school year and is designed to be 90 minutes in length. Groups wishing to remain for a longer time should make arrangements with the Museum Educator.

Curriculum Connections

Written to complement the Grade 2 Social Studies Curriculum.

2.2 Communities in the Past

2.2.6 Analyze how the community being studied emerged

2.2.7 Examine how the community being studied has changed

The program also encourages students to develop the skills required to work effectively in groups, mapping and graphing skills and historical thinking and analysis.

Confirmation, Cancellations, and Contact Information

Your program has been scheduled as per the information on your confirmation sheet. If you have any questions about your booking or the program, please contact the Museum Educator at tours@galtmuseum.com or (403)320-4248. If you must cancel or reschedule a program, please let us know as soon as possible. We will try to fit your class in at another time as time permits.

Payment

Payments can be made in advance of the program or on the day of the program. The Galt accepts VISA, MasterCard, debit, cash, and cheques. Cheques should be made out to the Galt Museum & Archives or City of Lethbridge. If payment is made in advance, receipts will be available on the day of the program. Otherwise, receipts will be mailed out to the school. The payment amount is \$45 per class per program.



Expectations for Visitors

- There should be one or two adult supervisors per class (this may include yourself). More adults are always welcome and there is no cost for adult supervisors. Younger siblings accompanying the class with their parents are also most welcome to attend the program.
- Running is not permitted in the Galt. There is green space to the south of the Galt if the class requires a space to stretch their legs.
- In order to protect and preserve the artifacts, drinks, food, and chewing gum are not permitted in the galleries or Archives. Drinking and eating are permitted in the Viewing Gallery.
- Because they are fragile and irreplaceable, artifacts on display should not be touched or handled.
- It is requested that there be no flash photography in the galleries. Light can, over time, damage the artifacts. Flash photography can be taken in the viewing gallery and programming areas (i.e. classroom).
- Visitors are not required to whisper in the Galt. Indoor voices are preferred.
- Washrooms are located on the main floor in the old portion of the building.

The Role of Adult Supervisors

Adult supervisors are an integral part of the Galt's programs, especially SimLethbridge. Students will work in groups of 3-5 students and it is useful to have one adult per group. The following suggestions are provided to help make their role clearer and easier to manage. Some teachers find it useful to photocopy these suggestions for their adult supervisors.

- ✓ Float around and assist during the activities.
- ✓ Maintain the focus of the activities as you assist students through the activities. Remind students of what they are trying to discover and help them troubleshoot problems they may encounter.
- ✓ Your Museum Education Volunteer (Docent) or Museum Educator will answer any questions you may have. If a question can not be answered during the program, it will be recorded and more information will be forwarded to the school.
- ✓ Assist in keeping students together.
- ✓ Ensure that students do not: run in the galleries, touch the artifacts on display, or drink or chew gum in the exhibits.
- ✓ Ask any available staff for assistance if there is an emergency.
- ✓ Encourage the students to ask questions and get involved.
- ✓ Enjoy your visit.

Your Arrival at the Galt

- The Galt has a parking lot north of the building with bus and vehicle parking.
- Buses and vehicles may drop off and pick up students at the north east corner of the building (using the east entrance). This is a fire access road so please do not leave vehicles here once they are emptied.
- Please enter through the east entrance. There is a coat room down the hallway to your left as you enter. Please leave all coats and backpacks here. Students do not need to remove boots. This coat room is solely for the use of programs and is not for general visitors.
- Galt staff will meet you at the east entrance.

Background Information for SimLethbridge

Lethbridge's history starts long before there were any people here, for Lethbridge's history is dependent on coal and goes back to the time when coal was formed and when dinosaurs roamed southern Alberta. We sometimes forget the importance of coal in the history and development of southern Alberta now that the mines are gone. But coal built Lethbridge. More than anything else, it was the deciding factor in Lethbridge's early development.

The First Nations of the area used the site where Lethbridge would grow as a place to cross the river. Where the Whoop-Up Bridge stands today was a natural ford to cross the river and the First Nations also camped in the river bottom where wood, game and water were plentiful and where the coulees offered shelter from the winds. One of the Blackfoot names for the area was Sih-ko-ko-too-ki, or place of the black rocks, a reference to the coal that was visible in the area.

The next major development in the area was the whisky trade and the creation of Fort Hamilton (Fort Whoop-Up) at the junction of the St. Mary and Oldman Rivers (about 8 miles south of Fort Whoop-Ups present location). The Fort was responsible for bringing both Nicholas Sheran and the NWMP to the area. Sheran originally mined near the Fort, but when he discovered a better site here, he moved, started his mine and ferry service and built his cabin on the west bank of the Oldman River just north of Whoop-Up Drive. Sheran mined the coal by hand and it was transported by bull train to Fort Macleod and Fort Benton, in Montana. This was a minor mining operation and Lethbridge would not have grown if Elliott Galt had not met Nicholas Sheran and learned of the coal.

Elliott Galt was the son of Sir Alexander Galt, a Father of Confederation and the first Canadian High Commissioner to London. Elliott Galt was in the area working as an Assistant Indian Commissioner and took the opportunity to send some samples of the coal to his father. The Galt's arranged investors from England and in 1882/1883 started a full-scale mining operation along the banks of the Belly (later to be renamed Oldman) River.

The town of Coalbanks started in the river bottom. As it had for the Blackfoot, the river bottom provided water, shelter and food and had the added advantage of being close to the mines. However, floods and other problems associated with “The Bottoms” convinced people to start building the town on the prairie, which they started to do in 1885. A community, though, remained in the river bottom until the 1950s.

With the decision in 1885 to start building on the prairie level, there also came the decision to officially rename the community. A common practice of Sir Alexander Galt’s was to encourage people to invest in his projects by naming things after them. William Lethbridge was the largest investor in the coal company and became the first President of the Company. The entire community was also named for him, even though he never visited the town. Many other investors had streets in Lethbridge and other towns named after them.

Many factors have contributed to Lethbridge’s growth over the years. Irrigation was an important factor. The St. Mary River Irrigation Project, which was the first large scale irrigation project in Canada, forever changed Lethbridge. Lethbridge was better placed to withstand the Depression than many other prairie communities as a result of irrigation. The coal industry was terribly hit by the Depression, but farmers in the area were not as dependent on rain as farmers elsewhere. As the importance of coal declined, Lethbridge became the centre of the agricultural community of southern Alberta, providing services to the farmers and ranchers of the area.

If you look at a map of Lethbridge prior to the 1960s, there is virtually nothing on the west side of the Oldman River. What made people start to build on the other side of the river. One decision and one building. The decision to build the university where it is today lead to the development of west Lethbridge and a new chapter in the development of Lethbridge.

Pre- and Post-Activities

These activities can be done prior to your visit to the Galt or after you have returned to your classroom.

STRUCTURES OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Either through a walking tour or through discussion, have the class note as many different types of structures as they can. Some different structures that they might look for include:

- Structures people live in
 - Houses, apartment buildings, hotels, etc
- Structures for business
 - Stores, businesses, banks, gas stations, restaurants and taverns, etc.
- Structures for education
 - Schools, libraries, museums, art galleries, etc.
- Structures for government or similar services
 - Post offices, city hall, court house, police stations, fire stations, hospitals, jails, etc.
- Structures for transportation
 - Airports, bus stops, etc.
- Structures for manufacturing or industry
 - Warehouses, newspapers, factoring, generating plants, etc.
- Structures for worship
 - Churches, synagogues, temples, etc.
- Structures for farming
 - Barns, Quonsets, etc.
- Structures for entertainment
 - Theatres, community halls, sports arenas, cinemas, swimming pools, etc.
- Any other interesting or unusual structures in your community
 - Bridges, monuments, fences, etc.

Ask the class to think about this questions: Why are there so many different types of structures in Lethbridge.

TIME LINE

As a class, create a time line of important events in Lethbridge's past. Add to the time line after your visit.

PLACE NAMES

Prior to 1910, every street in Lethbridge had a name. The names that were once used downtown have now been replaced with a number system. In some areas, you can find the names also on the street signs. The names of the old streets tell you a lot about the history of Lethbridge. Have each student pick a street name from the downtown and discover for whom or what the street was called originally. Write a short paragraph on that person and his or her roles in Lethbridge's history.

Your Galt Program

ACTIVITY 1 : WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Students will be welcomed to the museum and will review what a museum is and the expectations of visitors to the museum. The program and activities for the day will also be reviewed.

ACTIVITY 2: HOW TODAY WAS MADE

Working in groups, students will help build Lethbridge on a map as anecdotes, facts and stories of Lethbridge's development are shared.

ACTIVITY 3: LETHBRIDGE AS IT IS

Students will discuss Lethbridge in the present.

ACTIVITY 4: LETHBRIDGE AS IT COULD

BE/CONCLUSION

Students will review the activities of the program and will be left with the assignment to think about what they think Lethbridge should become in the future. Students will be invited to visit the Galt again.

Evaluation

An evaluation form was sent out with your confirmation. Evaluation results allow us to offer the most effective and highest standard program that we can. Your feedback and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Please fax the form back to us at (403) 329-4958 or mail to Museum Educator at 910 4 Ave S, Lethbridge, AB T1J 0P6.



Bussing program made possible through the generous support of the:

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