



## **Preparatory program: First Nations Dance and Percussion Instruments**

This visit is designed to stimulate visitors' awareness of American Indians in Quebec, of their languages, rituals, inventions, and of their social life yesterday and today. It aims also at helping visitors better understand how the American Indian has adapted to the huge changes that have marked the past centuries.

The objectives of the McCord Museum with respect to this visit are that the student in cycle one will...

- Become familiar with the museum as a space for exploration and discovery.
- Explore notions of past and present.
- Recognize the First Nations as living entities in today's world.
- Recognize the various percussion instruments, and appreciate the importance of musical rhythm in Aboriginal culture

The objectives of the McCord Museum with respect to this visit are that, the student in cycles two and three will:

- Explore more thoroughly the cultural and social realities of various First Nations inhabiting Canadian territory during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Recognize that there are many distinct Aboriginal groups inhabiting the territory of present-day Quebec.
- Acquire the relevant information needed to define the term “Aboriginal” and to dismiss stereotypes of members of the First Nations.
- Identify various percussion instruments and appreciate the importance of rhythm for Aboriginal peoples.

The objectives of the McCord Museum with respect to this visit are that the high-school students will:

- Explore more thoroughly the cultural and social realities of various First Nations inhabiting Canadian territory during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

- Recognize that there are many distinct Aboriginal groups inhabiting the territory of present-day Quebec.
- Acquire the relevant information needed to define the term “Aboriginal” and to dismiss stereotypes of members of the First Nations.

Respect for different cultures is a very important aspect of this museum experience. The objective of the visit is to do away with the pre-conceptions one may have concerning American Indians. Our program is designed to involve young people in the experience of a First Nations cultural reality: dance. Unfortunately, the common image we have of this art is of American Indians dancing round a camp fire, rhythmically tapping their mouths with one hand as they chant their war songs—a Hollywood stereotype that has little to do with any cultural reality, past or present. The dance workshop these young people will attend will provide them with an integrated and unique cultural experience. If they are to fully appreciate this activity, your young students must bring to it both respect and open-mindedness as they come into contact with a culture that is not their own.

By **respect**, we mean accepting the fact that the other person is different, has different ideas, different behaviours from those with which we are familiar.

By **culture**, in its widest sense, we mean all those distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual, and emotional features that characterize a given society or social group. This includes, apart from arts and literature, lifestyles, basic human rights, value systems, traditions, and beliefs.

To prepare for your visit, we would suggest you carry out the following activities, according to your educational cycle:

**For students in 1<sup>st</sup> cycle elementary**, we suggest the following simple activity designed to introduce you to the American-Indian culture in Canada:

[http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/crnchr\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/crnchr_e.html)

**For students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle elementary**, we suggest the following activity, a game designed to open your eyes and minds to cultural diversity:

### From Saturn to Jupiter

Time: 10 - 20 minutes

Group Size: 10 – 30

Materials: Two cones (or backpacks)

Principal Value: Respect for diversity

Location: Indoors/Outdoors

Activity Level: Active

Other Value: Acceptance

## Purpose of the game

To help the children become aware of the fact that while the members of the group are all different, they also have many things in common. This game aims to develop a positive view of diversity, so that the children see it as an advantage for society rather than as a threat.

## Object of the game

To identify oneself with a group and run to a designated spot.

## How to play

1. Place 2 cones about 20 metres apart. Designate 1 cone as "Saturn" and the other as "Jupiter."
2. Explain to the children that, after hearing their instructions, they will have to run to the planet that best meets their situation.
3. Give them the instructions as follows: "Those who [have brown hair] go to Saturn; those who [don't have brown hair] go to Jupiter." Let the children run to the appropriate cone.
4. Continue the game by calling out different instructions, drawing on the suggestions provided below.

<b>Saturn</b> "Those who... go to Saturn."	<b>Jupiter</b> "Those who... go to Jupiter."
Are girls	Are boys
Speak Spanish	Do <b>not</b> speak Spanish
Wear glasses	Do <b>not</b> wear glasses
Like soccer	Do <b>not</b> like soccer
Slept well last night	Did <b>not</b> sleep well last night
Have curly hair	Do <b>not</b> have curly hair
Speak only one language	Speak <b>2</b> languages or more
Were born in Canada	Were <b>not</b> born in Canada
Have a brother	Do <b>not</b> have a brother
Like broccoli	Do <b>not</b> like broccoli
Know how to play a musical instrument	Do <b>not</b> know how to play a musical instrument
Have blue eyes	Do <b>not</b> have blue eyes
Have visited another country	Have <b>never</b> visited another country

## Variation

### Fun runs

Add some restrictions on movement, such as asking the children to jump like a frog, to hop on one foot, to crawl backwards, and so on.

## Talking it over

Invite the children to sit in a circle, and lead a discussion based on the following questions:

- Did you like this game? Why or why not?
- Did you end up alone on your planet at any point during the game? How did that make you feel?
- Were there times when you didn't know which planet to go to? Why?
- In what ways are we all different?
- Do you like having friends who are different from you? Why or why not?

You can download other games from the following website:

<http://www.equitas.org/toolkit/>

**For students at high-school and college level,** we suggest you look at the following Webtour:

[http://www.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/keys/webtours/tourID/VQ\\_P2\\_12\\_EN](http://www.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/keys/webtours/tourID/VQ_P2_12_EN)

Enjoy finding out!

The Educational and Cultural Action Service