

## FORT CALGARY TEACHER'S GUIDE- MEET THE MOUNTIES

Length: 1 hour (ECS), 1 hr 30 min (Grade 1 only)

- Intro/Puppet Show approx. 20 minutes
- Artifact handling approx. 20-30 minutes
- Ranks & Recruitments approx. 20 min (grade one only)
- Picture Hunt/Backyard Play approx. 15-20 min

(Because of the nature of this age group, times can be altered to accommodate bathroom breaks, but not snack. The final portion of the program can be eliminated if time is a concern)

### Purpose:

- To introduce students to the museum as a place of learning and exploration filled with artifacts, exhibits and specific behavioral expectations. To introduce the story of the arrival of the NWMP at Fort Calgary and to help students feel a personal connection to history through storytelling, museum exploration and artifact-handling.
- To allow children to use hands-on learning to work together as a group; asking questions and discovering their own conclusions through a critical thinking process rather than being given answers. Students are encouraged to co-operate, share and respect their teammates.

### Program Overview:

Your class will be introduced to the story of the Northwest Mounted Police arrival at Fort Calgary by a jackrabbit puppet named Jack. Your class will learn about Jack's ancestor and his experience with the arrival of the Mounties. Your class will listen to an audio recording of what the prairies might have sounded like when the Mounties arrived.

During the artifact handling exercise, your class will be given the opportunity to handle real life artifacts from NWMP officers. The students will be divided into groups with an adult chaperone and will handle each artifact while sitting around a carpet station. This is a great opportunity for inquiry-based discussions about objects. What clues can an artifact give us for how the item was used in the past?

(Grade one students will be given the opportunity to participate in the ranks and recruitment drills of a NWMP officer. They will learn to salute and march as well as take their oath of allegiance. This portion is approx. 20 minutes long and contributes to a 1 ½ hr program. If you have also booked Museum Tour for your grade one class, this portion will not be repeated in both, rather your students will have an opportunity to explore/play in the backyard exhibit.)

There is an opportunity here for a short bathroom break before the final portion of the program. Continuing in their five groups, students will travel in the museum with their adult chaperones looking for the actual object that matches the image they have in their picture hunt booklet. This is also a chance to explore the museum's exhibits, many of which are interactive. Any time remaining after the picture hunt will be spent playing with the old-fashioned games in the backyard exhibit.

### Pre and Post Visit Lesson Plans:

- Read the book: *My Great, Great, Great, Great, Great Grandfather Was A Warrior* by Riccardo Francaviglia and Margherita Sgarlta (ISBN: 189422281-4) to introduce the concepts of history and family ancestry.
- Design your own table-top museum in your classroom by making artwork and labeling it with exhibit-style plaques or by displaying "artifacts" under glass jars or behind string partitions.
- Create your own Mountie pillbox hat with the template from Fort Calgary given with your evaluation form at the end of your visit.