

SKETCHING IN THE GARDEN: TEACHER'S GUIDE Grades 3-9

Total Program Length: 1.5 hours

Intro: 10 min
Garden/Picture viewing: approx 30min
Sketching: approx 30-35min
Conclusion: 15min

**** Note:** This program has been designed to be very flexible and the volunteer leading the program will work with the teachers to design a unique experience for every class. However, every class will learn follow the same basic outline seen below.

Location: Outside, rain or shine!

Program Overview:

Students will arrive and be greeted by a local artist. They will be introduced to Fort Calgary and Mounted Police artists RB Nevitt and Henri Julien. Students will have time to analyze reproduction pieces of art created by these artists. The students will then be taken out behind the museum building to view our award-winning community garden. While students observe the flora, there will be a discussion about how the Mounted Police utilized their own garden to supplement their rations. Students will then have a dedicated length of time to sketch under the guidance and encouragement of the volunteer artist, using the pictures of Fort Calgary and the community garden as inspiration. At the end of the allotted sketching time, students will gather together and briefly share their sketch.

Pre-Visit Activities:

- Discuss various painting/sketching techniques appropriate to your grade level with students. What are the pros & cons of these techniques?
- In small groups, have students critically examine works of art of your choosing– what is going on in this painting? Why did the artist choose these colours? How does this art make you feel? What materials did the artist use to create their art? etc...
- Practice sketching still-life items if you know students haven't done so before
- Visit some of the great social studies websites found at www.fortcalgary.com under 'School Programs'. There are teacher links as well as age-appropriate student links!

Post-Visit Activities:

- Continue the sketch started at Fort Calgary. We would love to see the results!
- Discuss the types of food being grown in the community garden. As a class, make a group project out of planting your own various types of seeds. Peas, beans, strawberries, and tomatoes make good classroom plants. Record and observe the changes over time.
- Have students research the "Great March West of 1874" that both Mountie artists experienced. Imagine you are an artist on that trip as well. What images would you choose to record? Have students sketch/paint a scene from their research. Try not to have them "copy" a picture, but rather draw an image from their readings.
- Alternatively, provide students with art scenes of early Mounties but no text. Have them write a story about the image they see, pretending they are a person in the portrait or the artist who painted it.

Vocabulary Words: NWMP, Fort Calgary, rations, shading, etching, watercolours, flora/fauna, and other words as agreed upon between you and the volunteer artist