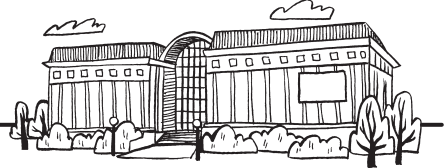




## Chaperones, help your students explore the Minnesota History Center!

In each exhibit, **follow the chaperone instructions** to guide students to a particular location. Once there, ask the accompanying questions and encourage students to interact with the exhibit, use their imaginations, and connect to Minnesota history.

**EXPLORE! And have fun!**



### *Then Now Wow*

**Gather students around the bison and bison puzzle in the prairie section of the exhibit. Ask students the following questions as you guide them to the electronic scanning station nearby for more information:**

How many of you have seen an animal like this before?

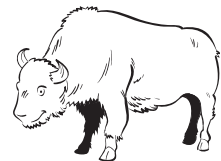
This is called a bison. Long ago, there were lots of bison in Minnesota.

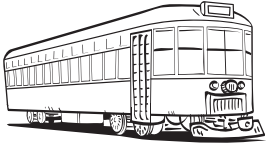
The bison was very important for a group of people called the Dakota. The bison gave the Dakota many things besides food. Take a look at this puzzle of a bison. You can take it apart. Now let's take that piece to the scanning station over here. Scan each part to find out more about it.

Which parts of the bison did you find? Can you find a part of the bison you think the Dakota might have used to carry water? What is it?

Which part of the bison could the Dakota use to make a sled?

Many Dakota people still live in Minnesota today. How do you think they get things today that they used to get from the bison?





**Locate the streetcar in the middle of the gallery.  
Ask students to hop aboard with you and answer  
the following questions:**

How many of you have ever been on a bus before?  
Does this remind you of a bus?

This is called a “streetcar.” Before there were buses, people traveled  
by streetcar. It has wheels that run on rails like a train.

Look out the windows of our streetcar. What do you see?

Imagine you are riding on the streetcar to work.  
What sounds do you think you might hear?

The person who drove the streetcar had a bell to ring.  
Make the sound of that bell like this, “DING! DING! DING!”

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## ***Minnesota’s Greatest Generation***

**Find the soda fountain near the entrance of the gallery.**

Pretend to work in this shop. What will you sell?

What is your favorite ice cream?

Do you think your grandparents or great-grandparents bought  
ice cream at a shop like this?

Look around the shop behind the counter.  
What other things might you sell at this shop?

## ***Weather Permitting***



**Locate the tornado in the center of the gallery.  
Ask your group the following questions:**

A tornado hit Fridley, Minnesota, in May 1965. What are some sounds you think people might have heard during the tornado? Try to make those sounds now!

Look around the tornado and house. See if you can spy the following items:

- a piano
- a yellow teddy bear
- a bicycle
- a red and black shirt
- a rocking horse
- a purple, orange, and white towel

How do you think these things landed where they are?

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# Our Home

## Native Minnesota

**At the front of the exhibit, find the quilt with a star on it.**

Ask students the following questions:

Have you ever seen a blanket like this in the place where you live?  
What does your blanket look like?

This is a special kind of blanket. It is called a quilt, which is a blanket made up of different pieces of fabric sewn together. Imagine how warm and cozy you'd feel with it on you.

Which colors do you see on this blanket? Which shapes do you see?  
Do you see the shape of a star?

Stars and the sky are very important to the Dakota people.

Imagine you are going to sew one of these blankets. It will take a very long time and hard work. Show me by moving your hands how you would sew it.  
What would you want to sew on your blanket?

**Walk with the students to the back wall of the exhibit. Find the wild-ricing sticks and the picture of the Ojibwe family wild-ricing.** Gather students around the case with the wild-ricing sticks. Say the following:

Look at the knocking sticks in the case. These knocking sticks are used to gather a special food.

Pretend we are out in a narrow boat called a canoe. Have any of you been in a canoe before?

We are going to take the sticks and find a food that grows in the water. We are going to knock this food into our canoe.

Pretend you have these sticks in your hands. Show me how you would knock this food.

This food is wild rice. It is a very important food for the Ojibwe people. Every fall, Ojibwe families take canoes out into the water and gather it.

What is a food that is special to you?  
Where does it come from?  
Have you ever helped to gather food outside?

Let's pretend we just ate your special food.  
What sounds do you make when you eat something really good?  
What are some faces you make when you eat something yummy?  
Make those sounds and faces!

**Walk with students to the "We Gather Together" section of the exhibit and find the Dakota cradleboard near the wall.** Say the following to your students:

This thing is used to carry something very special.  
Have you heard the word "cradle" before?  
What do you think this cradleboard might hold?  
This cradleboard is made to keep a Dakota baby safe.

Imagine Grandmother is wearing the cradleboard with the baby in it as she works in the kitchen. What things do you think the baby could see and learn about?

How many of you have a baby in your family?  
Does your family carry them in something special like this?

Many groups of people from around the world have ways to carry their baby like this.

What are other ways that people you know keep a baby safe?