

The Fourth Corner

Subject	Grade Level	Time
Social Studies	2nd (Adjustable 2-5)	60 minutes

Overview

In this lesson students explore the history of the city of Bellingham, from early Western settlers to the present day, through a guided tour of the 1892 Old City Hall exhibits. Emphasis is given to two permanent exhibits (Lumber and Maritime) focusing on the city's industrial history to explore why Bellingham grew and developed. Students also learn about important events in Bellingham's history collaboratively by constructing a timeline together.

Objectives/Standards

Social Studies (grade 2)

- 3.2.1 Understands that people in communities affect the environment as they meet their needs and wants.
- 4.1.1 Understands and creates timelines for events in a community to show how the present is connected to the past.
- 4.2.1 Understands individuals who have shaped history in the community.

Vocabulary

Timeline: A way of organizing and displaying events by the order in which they occurred.

Context: The circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed.

Equidistant: Placing points in an even, consistent manner according to scale.

Materials and Resources

Old City Hall exhibits

70' (apx) timeline for Rotunda Room

Bellingham History Event sheets (pictures and text) to tack to timeline

Contextual History Event sheets to tack to timeline

Decade stickers

Lesson Body

1. Before group's arrival, attach empty timeline to Rotunda Room walls (from Elevator doorway to Kitchen doorway) via painters tape. Gather event sheets in center of room.
2. Gather group in OCH theater, introduce lesson and divide into 2 groups. (5 min)
3. 1 group is led through Lumber exhibit while the other is led through Maritime exhibit. (15 min)
4. Groups change galleries and repeat. (15 min)
5. Both groups gather in Rotunda Room to participate in timeline activity. (20-25 min)
 - a. Educator introduces basic timeline elements with students (beginning, middle, end, equidistance between years, contextualization, etc.)
 - b. Students place decade stickers on timeline to assist in placing events.
 - c. Students place contextual history sheets on timeline.
 - d. Students place Bellingham history sheets on timeline.

Assessment

On-site assessment gauged informally, via questions and interactions during gallery tour and timeline interactive. Post-visit timelining worksheet (in development).