

KELOWNA MUSEUMS

2025-26 SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Way'. Kelowna Museums is committed to a Journey of Reconciliation and aspires to include Indigenous perspectives and knowledge in our offerings. In this work, we practice the First Peoples Principles of Learning as we develop each learning experience.

Immersive museum visits inspire curiosity, exploration, and musl's (nsyilxcən for hope). In-person field trips for the 2025-26 school year take place in downtown Kelowna at one of our three locations: the Okanagan Heritage Museum, Okanagan Military Museum, or Okanagan Wine & Orchard Museum.

We understand the cost of transportation can make field trips inaccessible, so this year, we are introducing Museum on Wheels! Starting in October, select programs (identified with a school bus icon) can now be booked for school outreach every Thursday. Ask us for more details!

Also ask us about our language tours at the Okanagan Heritage Museum. We offer tours in French, Spanish, and Portuguese.



Yours in learning,



Kelowna Museums Education Team

GRADES K-3

All programs 60 minutes unless otherwise stated.

Dinosaur Roar | Pre K-1

Okanagan Heritage Museum

Dinosaurs were HOW BIG? Using real paleontology equipment and fossil exploration, we will imagine a land filled with dinosaurs. How loud can you roar?

Amazing Animals | K-3

Okanagan Heritage Museum

My, what big teeth you have! Get up close to animal skulls, teeth and taxidermy to explore how they live in their environments. First Nations knowledge will help us understand and appreciate these amazing animals.

Animaux Admirables | m-3

Okanagan Heritage Museum

Quelles belles dents vous avez! Venez voir des crânes, des crocs, et des taxidermies de près et explorez comment les animaux habitent leurs environnements naturels. La connaissance autochtone nous aide à comprendre et à apprécier ces animaux admirables.

Get Wild with Pollinators | Gr 1-3

Okanagan Wine & Orchard Museum



Not all bees live in hives or wear yellow and black stripes! Discover pollinating insects of the Okanagan and appreciate the hard work they do. Take away tips and fun activities that you can do at home to help our wild pollinator population.

Fantastic Fruits | K-3

Okanagan Wine & Orchard Museum

Imagine a land where trees grow delicious treats. That's the Okanagan! We'll explore our amazing valley and discover why it's a tree-fruit growing paradise. Together, we'll become fruit-growing experts and appreciate the hard work of our local farmers.

Tmix^w: Living with the Land | K-12

Okanagan Heritage Museum

Discover the deep connection Indigenous peoples share with the land and their profound knowledge of local ecosystems. Join us to learn about traditional *syilx* ways of living in harmony with the land, past and present. Explore topics like food, clothing, shelter, and uncover the meaning of the *nsyilxcən* word *tmix^wulax^w*.



GRADES 4-8

All programs 60 minutes unless otherwise stated.

Okanagan Orchards

Gr 4-6 | Okanagan Wine & Orchard Museum

Settlers have reshaped the local landscape into "the Garden City" with bountiful orchards and farms. Students will explore artefacts and pictures in the museum gallery to uncover how this came to be. They will also encounter stories of growers and workers. Learning how the syilx people actively stewarded "natural orchards" will foster an appreciation for First Nations' knowledge of the land.

Kelowna's Chinatown

Gr 4-8 | Okanagan Heritage Museum
75 min

Wait... Kelowna had a Chinatown? Learn about the Chinese residents who built Kelowna's Chinatown during a time of prejudice, discrimination, and anti-Asian laws. Explore historical artefacts and documents to uncover the stories of those who lived there. Discover how their perseverance can inspire us to build a more inclusive future.



Fossil Hunters

Gr 4-6 | Okanagan Heritage Museum
90 min

Learn about dinosaurs and geology to become an amateur fossil hunter and discover whether you can find a dinosaur in your backyard. Handle rocks and fossils as we learn about the rock cycle, deep time, the movement of tectonic plates, local geology and examine geological survey maps.



Birds, Bats and Butterflies

Gr 4-7 | Okanagan Heritage Museum | 75 min

Calling all young nature enthusiasts! Embark on an educational journey examining the winged creatures of the Okanagan Valley's vibrant skies, their unique characteristics and local ecosystems.



Unpacking Stories of Military History

Gr 4 - 12 | Okanagan Military Museum

Students will delve into artifacts and historical records from World War I and World War II to uncover the personal stories of Okanagan men and women who served. They'll explore how technology shaped these global conflicts and impacted the lives of people both on the battlefield and at home.



GRADES 4-8

All programs 60 minutes unless otherwise stated.

Field of Crosses: Remembering Local Soldiers

Gr 6-9 | Okanagan Military Museum, City Park
2 hrs | Available Nov. 3-10 and Nov. 12

The Field of Crosses is a memorial of 240 white crosses in City Park. Each cross represents one person from Kelowna who lost their lives in the service of our community. Students will gain a deeper understanding of what this means by participating in a research project, a tour of the Okanagan Military Museum, and a visit to the Field of Crosses

Ntyityix and TEK

4 - 12 | Okanagan Heritage Museum



Learn how integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Western Science offers new approaches to sustaining healthy waterways and salmon populations in the Okanagan.

The Unlearning Project

4-12 | Okanagan Heritage Museum | 75 min

What happened in the Okanagan when residential schools opened? How were traditional ways of knowing disrupted, and why does it matter today? Students will be immersed in syilx traditional wisdom that derives from tmix^w (all living things). They will explore belongings that demonstrate the importance of intergenerational learning and the disruption caused by the residential school system. Students will hear messages of truth and hope from Elders.

Tmix^w: Living with the Land

K-12 | Okanagan Heritage Museum

Discover the deep connection Indigenous peoples share with the land and their profound knowledge of local ecosystems. Join us to learn about traditional syilx ways of living in harmony with the land, past and present. Explore topics like food, clothing, shelter, and uncover the meaning of the nsyilxcān word tmix^wulax^w.



Coming soon in 2026

Keep your eyes open for an exciting new multi-culturalism program celebrating the diverse heritage, history, and cultures that make up the Okanagan. For grades 5-11.



GRADES 9-12

All programs 60 minutes unless otherwise stated.

Unpacking Stories of Military History

Gr 4 - 12 | Okanagan Military Museum

Students will delve into artifacts and historical records from World War I and World War II to uncover the personal stories of Okanagan men and women who served. They'll explore how technology shaped these global conflicts and impacted the lives of people both on the battlefield and at home.

Field of Crosses: Remembering Local Soldiers

Gr 6-9 | Okanagan Military Museum, City Park
2 hrs

This free program, funded by Kelowna Museums and the Rotary Club of Kelowna is available from November 4-8. 240 white crosses in City Park each represent a local member of the Canadian Armed Forces who lost their life in service to their country. Students will gain an understanding of their sacrifice by participating in a research project, a tour of the Okanagan Military Museum, and a visit to the Field of Crosses.

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FAQS

How to register:

Email us at education@kelownamuseums.ca or call (250) 868-4836 to book your time.

Cost & Payment:

In person and school outreach programming is \$150 per class and lasts 60 minutes unless otherwise stated. Virtual programs generally last 30 minutes and cost \$75. If cost is a barrier, please contact us anyways. Your school may qualify for a subsidy or discount!

Use of the classroom as a lunch space pre- or post-visit is available at a cost of \$20.

We acknowledge the financial support of the City of Kelowna, the Province of British Columbia and Central Okanagan Public Schools.

Accessibility:

The entrance to the Okanagan Heritage Museum is not at street level, but newly improved ramp access is available. Interior accessibility includes elevator access to the Classroom, a ramp to the temporary gallery, and an accessible, all-gender washroom.

The entrance to the Okanagan Military Museum is at street level. The men's and women's washrooms have accessible stalls.

The entrance to the Okanagan Wine & Orchard Museum is not at street level, but ramp access is available. The gallery spaces are all one level and there is an accessible, all-gender washroom.

If students in your group have accessibility or mobility needs, please get in touch - our goal is to make Kelowna Museums accessible and inclusive for everyone.

All members of the programming team have completed training with the Canucks Autism Network. We also have two sensory kits available. Please let us know ahead of your visit if your class would like to use them so we can ensure they are in the correct building.

Our Team:

Solange Massicotte, Head of Programming
Marshall Bond, Programming Associate
Erik Beardmore, Programming Associate
Sofia Graef, Programming Associate

We look forward to seeing you this fall and throughout the 2025-26 school year!



Thank you | way'limlæmt
Kelowna Museums

