A multitude of hands-on, science education programming for children and families at various levels of commitment and topic areas, all of which provide opportunity for learning anthropology.

Children and Family Learning Programs:

A study of types of homes throughout the world. Early Adventures visit the Hall of Eastern Woodland Native to observe and discuss the types of homes Native Americans built and lived in, and compare them to the homes they live in and know.

How do we inspire empathy in our programming?

Every major field of Museum science and research is represented. Children, accompanied by adults, can explore an array of artifacts and specimens, puzzles, and scientific challenges.

As children return each week with an adult family member or caretaker, their interest and sense of discovery are nurtured through introductions to various fields of Museum science. Hall visits and behind-the-scenes access to the Museum’s collection of specimens engage students and adults in every class.

Museum Assets Used for Learning Anthropology:

Children and families through years of disciplines, including Anthropology, that build upon one another, like animal handling, and experiences with Museum researchers and scientists.

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Pedagogical Tools Used for Learning Anthropology:

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Cultural Collections Objects, games, and music.

Videos and Images

Guest scientists

Museum Field Trips

Partners from Institutions that represent specific cultural groups.

How would you define culture?

What is Anthropology?

Anthropology is commonly studied in a four-field discipline. One of these sub-fields is Cultural Anthropology. The three other disciplines are linguistics, archaeology, and biological anthropology.

Cultural Anthropology is the study of people’s culture. Anthropologists do this by watching, listening, and asking questions.

What do we mean by empathy?

We define empathy as being able to put yourself in the shoes of another and share the same feelings. By recognizing the commonalities children share with a variety of cultural groups, they build connections and the capacity to understand the variety of human experiences.

Empathy is a key skill required for effective Anthropological Research. By practicing it with our participants, we prepare them to engage more effectively in complex cultural studies later in life with an open mind and while avoiding moral judgement or “othering.”

Considerations:

- Engaging empathy can start with what children know, but comparisons between cultures should not always be to the U.S. Western society. Be sure to compare other cultures between each other.
- We are not a culturally-specific institution. As such, it is not our place to speak for these cultures. We focus instead on Anthropology as a science.
- Cultural Anthropology does not yield the same “take-home facts” that other science workshops do. The caregivers expectations have to be taken into account and addressed appropriately.
- Cultural Anthropology is not archaeology. All of these cultures live in the present and should be represented as such. Make sure what you are referencing are current practices.
- Participants arrive with inherent biases that be acknowledged and challenged where appropriate.

Types of Puppets

- Rod puppet manipulated by strings with illumination from behind
- Shadow puppet: A puppet manipulated by strings attached to various parts of the puppet
- Glove puppet: A puppet worn over the hand
- Finger puppet: A puppet worn over the hand with fingers manipulating the fingers
- Puppet worn over the hand
- Puppet manipulated by strings
- Puppeteers stand behind a bamboo screen to complete puppet functions

Inspiring Cultural Empathy in Early Learners Through Anthropology

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