

Past Times History Kit

Thank you for selecting this history kit to use in your classroom. This kit and others from Heritage Village are designed to help you enhance your students' studies of Florida and Pinellas County's rich and diverse history. The information below combined with the artifacts and photograph banner will give you the tools that you need to set up a classroom exhibit and create a variety of hands-on learning opportunities.



History is about how people, places and things change over time.

Just as we change as we grow, so has the Pinellas peninsula and Florida. The things we use around our home, at school and at the work place have changed over time. How we do things with these objects changes, too. Homes, schools and businesses all change and grow.

The objects in this kit are all from the past. At history museums, these objects are called, "artifacts". The dictionary definition: **artifact – an object made by a human being, e.g. a tool or ornament, especially one that has archaeological or cultural interest.**

Archaeologists and anthropologists study artifacts in their investigation of how people lived in the past. Curators at museums use this information and display the artifacts so others can see what, where, when and how objects were used long ago. Most of the objects in this kit were donated to Heritage Village by people who live in Pinellas County. Some things have been handed down through time by family ancestors. Other objects may have lost their usefulness in the modern world and find their way in to museum collections. Many artifacts must be kept out of everyday reach and in exhibit cases in order to protect and preserve them for future generations to see and study.

At Heritage Village, some objects from the past are still used to show what life may have been like over the past 150 years in Florida. Artifacts help tell a story. They help connect the past to the present. Knowing the past and understanding how things have changed over time, prepares society to make the necessary changes that will occur in the future.

There are many ways for your class to use the objects in this kit. To start up their imaginations try the following activity. It is followed by a list of other basic classroom activities for you to do with your class. There is no particular order – you can begin with anyone of them.

When finished with the history kit, please be sure to place the objects, labels and numbers in their individual bags. Then, place the banner and notebook on top of all the packed artifacts. Finally, please complete one of the evaluation postcards located on the top lid of the box and send it to Heritage Village. Should you have any questions, please call 727-582-2426.

Once Upon a Time, Long Ago: Drama and Artifacts

- Divide the class in small groups of 2 – 3 students.
- Give each group one or two artifacts.
- Allow the group to discuss the artifact(s) and challenge them to consider the artifact, its uses and the time period it was used.
- Ask the students in each group to put on a short one to two minute skit that features the artifact, beginning with “Once upon a time, long ago...”
- Working with students in this way, artifacts can be rotated or exchanged. The teacher can also fine tune the activity by bringing the skits into focus from wildly imaginative to an actual place in time in history.