

EDUCATIONAL TRUNKS Available in NW Montana



Art & Indian Education

Traveling Medicine Show – (Grades K-12) – *from the Hockaday Museum of Art (Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268 or education@hockadaymuseum.org)* – First Nation artwork from the Northern Plains in three trunks: Trunk One: *Ancient Case* -- Bow and arrow, shield, parfleche etc. from long ago; Trunk Two: *Traditional Case* -- Ceremonial and everyday clothing, moccasins, dolls, cradle board, drum and pipe, decorative beadwork, etc.; Trunk Three: *Contemporary Case* -- Current art, artists, and traditions. Cost: \$150 for a full day – exhibit set up, presentations, art projects with 2-3 class sized groups. Cost is \$275 for a Blackfeet artist to come also.



Indian Art Trunk – (Grades K-12) – *free for Hockaday Museum of Art Member Schools, \$35 plus shipping for others (Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268) or education@hockadaymuseum.org* Blackfeet and other artists from the Northern Plains share their culture through traditional, historic, and contemporary art. This trunk replicates portions of the Museum's much larger Traveling Medicine Show. Included are original art- parfleche, moccasins, arrowhead, paintings, dolls and toys, raw material samples, historic art print reproductions, resource materials, and activities.

Indian Education for All, Youth Book Club Trunk, Gift of the Bitterroot and Crown of the Continent Ecosystem. - *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email: audubonashley@gmail.com).* Flathead Audubon, Flathead National Forest and the Northwest Montana Educational Cooperative teamed up to develop this trunk. Includes a class set of the book *Gift of the Bitterroot*, class set of study chapters from the *Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Profile*, a notebook of activities on ways to use the books in the classroom and reference books. Linked to Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians. Appropriate from Elementary to Middle School.

Indian Education for All Book Club Trunks – *free from NW Montana Educational Cooperative (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302, <http://www.nwmteducationalcoop.org>).*

Birds

Songbird Kit – (Grades K-8) – *free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) also available for \$35 plus shipping from Museum of the Rockies or Sacagawea Chapter of the Audubon Society, see web links at end of document.* This dynamic trunk has activities geared for the classroom as well as outdoors relating to songbirds. Resource materials, activities, videos, a felt storyboard, posters, recorded bird songs, and puppets all help students learn more about the natural history of several songbirds.

Bird ID and Costume Trunk – *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email audubonashley@gmail.com)* - What's a great way to learn about birds? By becoming one of course!

This trunk provides a costume to dress your students up with all the major bird adaptations to turn them into “real” birds of a feather! Appropriate from Pre-school to Middle School.

<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Common Birds of the Flathead Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email audubonashley@gmail.com) - Students will learn about the most visible birds around Flathead Valley. Trunk includes preserved bird specimens, slides, CD, pictures and worksheets! Appropriate from Elementary to High School. Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Field Studies Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email audubonashley@gmail.com) - There are two trunks of materials for the Field Studies: A classroom set of 18 *Petersen’s Bird Guides* and 10 binoculars for 4th or 5th grade and above. For younger students (Pre-school to 3rd or 4th grade) there is also a classroom set of 10 *Montana Birds* field guides and 10 smaller-sized binoculars. The second set can also be used by older students. Use of these trunks can help your students gain basic birding skills including use and care of binoculars and bird identification techniques! <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

The Changing Neighborhood Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email audubonashley@gmail.com) - Use felt figures to relay the story of environmental change and the effects of change on native species. Appropriate from Pre-school to Primary Elementary School. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Maggie the Magpie Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email audubonashley@gmail.com) - Have your students take Maggie the Magpie (a puppet) home and journal about her activities! This is a great one for getting those shyer birds in your class to fledge! Appropriate for Elementary school. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Cavity Nesters Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email audubonashley@gmail.com) - Tell the wonderful story of life in dead trees! Students will explore the adaptations and life cycles of native birds that use dead trees for food and shelter. Trunk includes puppets, activity pages, preserved bird specimens, real cavity nests and much, much more! Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Hummingbird Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email audubonashley@gmail.com) - Did you know a hummingbird only weighs as much as a penny? Learn all about this lightweight of the bird world with the Hummingbird Trunk! Trunk includes a 30 minute narrative with visual aids, puppets and puppet show scripts, specimens, research units on our native hummingbirds and a “humdinger” of a resource notebook. Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Snowy Owls Who Are They? Book and Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email audubonashley@gmail.com). Audubon and the Owl Research Institute have joined together to develop this trunk based on the book written by Ansley Watson Ford and Denver Holt. Appropriate from Elementary to Middle School.

Climate Change

Climate Change Trunk – (Grades 6-8) – *free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov)*

A complete set of materials to conduct the 2-week unit from Facing the Future: “Climate Change: Connections and Solutions.” Videos, web links, books, and hands-on interactive games help students understand the basics behind the science of climate change as well as the social and economic implications.

Crown of the Continent

Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Trunk – *developed by the Glacier Institute (call the Main Office, 755-1211)* – Did you know much of NW Montana falls within the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem? Borrow this trunk to learn more about the inter-connections throughout this ecosystem.

Fire & Fire Ecology

FireWorks – (Grades K-12) – *2 trunks locally: free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) and free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204 or twenum@fs.fed.us)*

Interactive, hands-on material to study the forces that cause change in forests, particularly wildland fire. Activities and lessons in the curriculum are tied to a collection of teaching tools to help students learn about fire ecology in three kinds of forests found in the northern Rocky Mountains. Curriculum linked to national educational standards. For more information and to download the curriculum visit the following web site: <http://www.firelab.org/con-ed>

Forestry

From the Tree 2 You! – *developed by Women in Timber (Contact: Holly McKenzie, 406-892-4141, hmckenzie@centurytel.net)* Collection of reference materials, suggested activities and hands-on tools for learning about forests, forest products and tree species.

Forest Stewardship Education Trunk—(Grades 5-12)—*free from Swan Ecosystem Center, 406 754-3137, or swanec3@blackfoot.net or for a fee of \$25/2 weeks or \$35/3 weeks from Montana Natural History Center, 406 327-0405.* This trunk guides students through a variable plot timber cruise with the use of professional foresters’ tools. The cruise not only surveys the timber on a particular piece of land but also the shrubs and plants present and wildlife use on the land.

Besides a teachers’ guide and a set of lesson plans, the trunk includes six completely outfitted loggers’ vests, reference materials, a CD-Rom called Montana Forests Forever, created by the Montana Logging Association, six stereoscopes for reading aerial photographs and a set of six plant and tree identification guides. The complete curriculum will enable students to write a management plan for the property surveyed. However, there are many components of the trunk that can be used without completing the curriculum. One of the most popular pieces is a tree’s biography and another is using tree cookies to see the relationship between circumference and diameter.

History

Land of Many Stories – (Grades 4) - *free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov)* –

This trunk was created by the Montana Historical Society Museum as part of Glacier’s Centennial Commemoration. It is geared toward 4th grade but many of the lessons can be used for higher grades.

Topics include Montana's Indian Tribes, the railroad and building of the park chalets, early tourism and marketing, how artists influenced information and knowledge about the park, and careers and jobs that people have had in Glacier. There are 2 copies of the trunk. One is available from West Glacier and the other is available from the museum in Helena. The lessons for the trunk are on-line at the museum's website at <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/footlocker/default.asp>.

Plants

Glacier's Plant Invaders – (Grades 3-6) - free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov)

Materials in this trunk were put together for upper elementary school field trips to learn about science and one way to collect data on non-native, invasive plants in Glacier National Park. Students learn about 4 species – Spotted knapweed, St. Johnswort, Houndstongue, and Oxeye daisies. There are sample data sheets, identification guides, a power point, and background information about doing science and why these plants are not wanted here.

Water

Rolling Rivers Trailer – (Grades 3-12) – free from Flathead County Conservation District (contact Outreach and Watershed Coordinator Patti Mason, 406/752-4220 fcd3@centurytel.net) – Several types of river systems can be modeled using this large sandbox, plastic houses, vegetation, and, of course, water! Through this interactive display students learn how waterways and citizens can coexist. Patti or another certified trainer will accompany the trailer's visit to your school as a guest speaker who can lead activities.

Wetland and Riparian Studies Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Society (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email audubonashley@gmail.com) or Flathead Conservation District (call Patti Mason at 752-4220) - Developed in partnership with Flathead Audubon and the Flathead Conservation District for educating on the importance of wetland and riparian areas for protecting or improving water quality from nonpoint source pollution, and their importance for wildlife and habitat. Contains a variety of hands-on activities that are correlated to National Science Education Standards for K-12. Includes a developed a unit of study, with recommended activities.

Wildlands

Wilderness and Land Ethic Box and Curriculum – (Grades K-8) – free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor's Office 406/758-5204 or twenum@fs.fed.us) – Interactive resource to promote awareness and appreciation of the cultural, environmental and experimental values of our natural resources. Activities and lessons in the curriculum are tied to a collection of teaching tools including animal skulls and skins, puppets, books, video and audio tapes, maps and more. For more information and to download the curriculum visit the following website: <http://www.wilderness.net>

Wildlife

Amphibian and Reptile Trunk – (Grades K-6) – free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor's Office 406/758-5204 or twenum@fs.fed.us) – Check out this trunk to discover what makes amphibians and reptiles so special. Videos, books, resource guides and a notebook full of suggested classroom activities make learning about the adaptations, conservation, and identification of Montana species fun! Trunk includes six junior size nets.

Aquatic Box, Cat Box, Elk Trunk, Furbearer Box, & Canine/Ungulate Box – free from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (call the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Kalispell Office 406/752-5501) – Five trunks circulate locally and contain skulls, pelts, brochures, books and other materials. For a list of trunks (cost variable, free to \$150) found in MT, ID, WA, OR see: <http://fwp.mt.gov/education/teachers/trunks/>



Bat Box – (Grades K-6) – *free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204 or twenum@fs.fed.us)* – “Sleep all Day, Play all Night. What kids wouldn’t like bats?”— from poster in the trunk. Trunk contains bat puppets, books, posters and lots more to explore the life and history of bats.

Bear Trunk – (Grades K-12) – *free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov)*

Background material, research guides, and props to facilitate discussions about bears of the world, their habitats, and food sources. Emphasis is on black and grizzly bears including how to tell them

apart and how to hike/camp safely in bear country. Activity guide and sample lesson plan included. With additional materials available on the web, upper grades can benefit from information regarding scientific method and results of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem DNA research study to determine population size as well as information about listing of the grizzly bear as an endangered species.

Loon Trunk – (Grades pre-K-12) – *free from Montana Loon Society (or call the Flathead National Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204 or twenum@fs.fed.us)* – Meet “Lottie” the Loon, who plays a true loon wail, learn how to identify a loon by dressing up a student, participate in games to learn how pollution is harmful to loons through the process of bioaccumulation, examine topographic maps to determine what lakes would make a good territory for a pair of nesting loons. This box contains a wealth of fun, hands-on items including a loon egg replica, puppets, scripts, videos, posters and much more to learn about Montana Loons. A three-ring notebook is full of lesson and activity ideas that meet Montana Content and Performance Standards for science, math, social studies, art, and language arts.

Mosquito Trunk – (*Elementary to adult*) -- *free from NW Montana Educational Cooperative (call Beth Lambert at the NW MT Educational Coop Office, 406/752-3302)* — Want to learn about mosquitos and how Flathead County controls the flying arthropods? Check out the mosquito trunk. The box contains informational PowerPoint slide shows, jeopardy game on PowerPoint, word search, and sample dipping cup, coloring sheets, puppets that display the different stages of the mosquito life cycle and several copies of the book, [The Summer the Town Bit Back](#).

Sally Snag – (Pre-K & Primary Grades) – *free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204 or twenum@fs.fed.us)* Bring a “dead” tree into your classroom, with Sally Snag! Sally shows kids how wildlife benefits from dead trees. Sally is easily set up with a fabric piece, tent poles, and hoola-hoops. Sally comes in a suitcase with an assortment of wildlife puppets and script. Sally can also become Sammy Snag depending on who is “playing the snag”.

Wolf Trunk – (Grades K-6) – *free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) and free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204 or twenum@fs.fed.us)* Includes pelts, skulls, tapes of wolf howls, videos, track casts and activity guide. Great for learning about predator/prey relationships and food chains.

Other educational trunks may be obtained (often for a fee plus shipping) from organizations outside the Flathead Valley. See these websites for more information:

The Montana Watercourse at Montana State University – Scholarships available for free rentals. Please inquire. Otherwise trunks are \$25 per rental or \$10 if you pick them up in Bozeman. Seven trunks: Ground Water Flow Model; Liquid History Treasure; Stream Ecology; Pond; Enviroscope Model; Water Literature; River of Words. www.mtwatercourse.org/Educators/trunks.htm

Museum of the Rockies, Traveling Teaching Trunks – (Grades K-8) – \$35 plus shipping. Call 406/994-5282. Archaeology, Dinosaur, Homesteading, Paper-making, Planets, Songbird, Space Odyssey, Telescope, Traditional Native American Games. <http://www.museumoftherockies.org/>

Montana Historical Society – (Grades K-8) – 20 hands-on history footlockers! To order, call the Society's Education Office at 406/444-4794 or complete an on-line reservation form. Please book early. – Footlockers contain reproduction artifacts, photographs, cassette tapes or videos, clothing, and tools related to the topic. User Guides contain: historical narratives; a bibliography; compliance with Montana Standards for Social Studies; and lessons. <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/education/footlocker/default.asp>

Montana Natural History Center, Nature Discovery Traveling Trunks (Msla.) – Over 20 available trunks! Trunks can be rented for two (2) weeks for \$35 or three (3) weeks for \$45. Call 406. 327.0405 to reserve a trunk. <http://www.montanaturalist.org/teacher-resources/traveling-trunks/>

Guide to Educational Trunks in the Northern Rockies (2001). This list can be searched by city and state. <http://www.thenaturecenter.org/resources/trunkguide>