SOOKE REGION Museum & Visitor Centre

AUTUMN 2026

School Programs

Visit the Sooke Region Museum, for fun and engaging activities connected to BC Curricular Competencies AND local history.

Grades K-5 — 5 stations inside and outside
15 minute activities at each station

Grades 6-7-8 — 4 stations inside and outside
30 minute activities at each station

Autumn 2026:

November: 17, 18, 19 / 24, 25

December: 1, 2 / 8, 9, 10

$200 / visit for 2 classes
9:45am-12pm

Book Online!

Sooke Region Museum & Visitor Centre
For more information
Phone: 250-642-6351
programs@sookeregionmuseum.ca

sookeregionmuseum.ca

British Columbia Arts Council | British Columbia
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

- School programs start at 9:45am with a welcome circle.
- Groups of 8 students with an adult participate in 5-6 different 15-minute activities, selected by the educator.

ALL GRADES:

CRAFT: ART INSPIRED BY THE LAND

Inspired by seasons, the land, cultural, and natural heritage, activities will encourage students to use creative processes to explore elements, materials, tools and techniques. Individual self- expression is encouraged to create a unique item with locally available materials. Autumn Craft options: holiday swag OR tree-ring prints

BLACKSMITHING AT THE FORGE

Blacksmithing is the ancient craft of heating and forging metal into shapes and objects using science and art. Students K-Grade 5 will watch the blacksmith at work, Grades 6-8 will try tapping the metal. Each class will take an object back to school

BUTTER MAKING

Ever wondered how butter is made? How does that creamy spread come from something as liquid as cow's milk? Experience what it is like to make butter and taste fresh butter!

LATHER, RINSE, REPEAT

Before there was running water, power, and washing machines, how did our ancestors wash clothes by hand? Learn (and practice!) to wash clothes by hand, and be encouraged to think about energy and water needed to wash clothing.

MOSS COTTAGE

Believed to be the oldest standing settler home in Sooke, Moss Cottage was built in 1869-70. In 1902, Matilda Gordon moved into the home where she raised her two children, Alice and Harry. K-5 students are greeted by Matilda "Aunt Tilly" Gordon who talks about life in Sooke in 1902. Grades 6-8 students are greeted by a contemporary guide, invited to consider the original tiny home.

TRACKS & SCAT

Vancouver Island is home to creatures big and small, and they all leave tracks & scat. Using replicas, students will identify animals from tracks & scat and make track prints in dough.

TRIANGLE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

The ocean was the historic gateway to Sooke Region. Challenged by fierce storms, fog and currents, many vessels wrecked on the reefs and rugged shores of west coast of Vancouver Island. Learn about the light keepers, the science of the Fresnel lens, and how this lighthouse came to be at the Sooke Region Museum.

OPTIONS BY GRADES:

ARTIFACT DETECTIVES - GRADES 2-3-4-5-6-7-8

Artifacts are the driving force behind sharing local history at the museum. Students get close to artifacts, exploring some of the most interesting artifacts in our collection. Students will ask questions and make inferences to tell the story of each artifact. Why were they important? How were they used in Sooke? Do we use similar artifacts today?

FORESTRY - GRADES 3,4, 5, 6, 7, 8

How is the forest an economic driver in our area? Logging camps and mill communities have shaped our region in physical, social and economic ways. Logging has been done in different ways over the years. Students will take a guided walk along our Forestry Path and learn about how forestry has shaped our past.

SPINNING FASHION - GRADES 3-4-5-6-7-8

Learn from yesterday with hand-powered tools from the past such as carders and spindles. Students will learn about the difference between making clothes from locally available materials versus fast fashion, and us hand carders and drop spindles with wool.

SEQUENCING SOOKE - GRADES 6, 7, 8

Challenge your knowledge of the past by putting archival photographs in chronological order - and maybe learn a bit about local history while you're doing it!

BANNOCK - all grades

Cultures all over the world make bread. Before Europeans came here with wheat flour, Indigenous People made bannock from Camas bulbs. Students will have the opportunity to cook bannock (with wheat flour) over an open fire. Bannock will be included as an activity for all programs, unless you request otherwise.
Students in Grades 6, 7, 8 will make seed balls with camas seeds to make a full 30-minute activity block with bannock.

Big Ideas and Curricular Competencies

Kindergarten

Art Inspired by the Land

- Plants and animals have observable features
- Daily and seasonal changes affect all living things
- Explore artistic expressions of themselves and community through creative processes
- Develop processes and technical skills in a variety of art forms

Butter Making

- The motion of objects depends on their properties
- Make exploratory observations using their senses
- Safely manipulate materials

Lather, Rinse, Repeat

- Recognize causes and consequences of events, decisions, or developments in their lives
- Ask questions, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the content and features of different types of sources

Moss Cottage

- Use sources of information and prior knowledge to make meaning
- Engage actively as listeners, viewers, and readers, as appropriate, to develop understanding of self, identity, and community

Tracks and Scat

- Plants and animals have observable features
- Make exploratory observations using their senses
- Experience and interpret the local environment and discuss observations

Bannock

- Know local First Peoples uses of plants and animals
- Discuss observations
- Experience and interpret the local environment

Triangle Island Lighthouse

- Engage actively as listeners, viewers, and readers, as appropriate, to develop understanding of self, identity, and community

Big Ideas and Curricular Competencies

Grade One

Art Inspired by the Land

- Engagement in the arts creates opportunities for inquiry through purposeful play.
- Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment.
- Develop processes and technical skills in a variety of art forms to nurture motivation, development, and imagination

Butter Making

- Matter is useful because of its properties.
- Make simple predictions about familiar objects and events
- Safely manipulate materials to test ideas and predictions

Lather, Rinse, Repeat

- Recognize causes and consequences of events, decisions, or developments in their lives
- Explore different perspectives on people, places, issues, or events in their lives

Moss Cottage

- Recognize causes and consequences of events, decisions, or developments in their lives
- Explore different perspectives on people, places, issues, or events in their lives

Tracks and Scat

- Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment.
- Make simple predictions about familiar objects and events
- Experience and interpret the local environment

Bannock

- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Consider some environmental consequences of their actions
- Safely manipulate materials to test ideas and predictions

Triangle Island Lighthouse

- Explore different perspectives on people, places, issues, or events in their lives

Big Ideas and Curricular Competencies

Grade Two

Art Inspired by the Land

- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Consider some environmental consequences of their actions
- Safely manipulate materials to test ideas and predictions
- Develop processes and technical skills in a variety of art forms to refine artistic abilities

Butter Making

- Materials can be changed through physical and chemical processes.
- Make simple predictions about familiar objects and events

Lather, Rinse, Repeat

- Recognize the causes and consequences of events, decisions, or developments
- Use sources of information and prior knowledge to make meaning

Moss Cottage

- Explain why people, events, or places are significant to various individuals and groups
- Canada is made up of many diverse regions and communities.

Tracks and Scat

- Relationships between people and the environment in different communities
- Experience and interpret the local environment

Bannock

- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Transfer and apply learning to new situations

Triangle Island Lighthouse

- Canada is made up of many diverse regions and communities.

Artifact Detectives

- Recognize the causes and consequences of events, decisions, or developments

Big Ideas and Curricular Competencies

Grade Three

Art Inspired by the Land

- Creative experiences involve an interplay between exploration, inquiry, and purposeful choice.
- Explore identity, place, culture, and belonging through arts experiences
- Refine ideas, processes, and technical skills in a variety of art forms

Lather, Rinse, Repeat

- Use sources of information and prior knowledge to make meaning
- Relationship between humans and their environment

Bannock

- Indigenous knowledge is passed down through oral history, traditions, and collective memory.
- Learning about indigenous peoples nurtures multicultural awareness and respect for diversity.

Artifact Detectives

- Aspects of life shared by and common to peoples and cultures
- Ask questions, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the content and features of different types of sources

Forestry

- Interconnections of cultural and technological innovations of global and local indigenous peoples

Butter Making

- Make predictions based on prior knowledge
- Transfer and apply learning to new situations

Moss Cottage

- Curiosity and wonder lead us to new discoveries about ourselves and the world around us.
- Use developmentally appropriate listening, and viewing strategies to make meaning

Tracks and Scat

- Living things are diverse, can be grouped, and interact in their ecosystems.
- Biodiversity in the local environment

Triangle Island Lighthouse

- Curiosity and wonder lead us to new discoveries about ourselves and the world around us.

Spinning Fashion

- Use sources of information and prior knowledge to make meaning
- Relationship between humans and their environment

Big Ideas and Curricular Competencies

Grade Four

Art Inspired by the Land

- Create artistic works collaboratively and as an individual using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and purposeful play
- Explore identity, place, culture, and belonging through arts experiences

Lather, Rinse, Repeat

- Construct narratives that capture the attitudes, values, and worldviews commonly held by people at different times or places

Bannock

- Identify First Peoples perspectives and knowledge as sources of information
- Observe objects and events in familiar contexts

Artifact Detectives

- The history of the local community and of local First Peoples communities
- Ask questions, corroborate inferences, and draw conclusions about the content and origins of different sources

Forestry

- The history of the local community and of local First Peoples communities
- Physiographic features and natural resources of Canada

Butter Making

- Energy has various forms
- Make predictions based on prior knowledge

Moss Cottage

- Demographic changes in North America created shifts in economic and political power.
- Recognize the role of language in personal, social, and cultural identity

Tracks and Scat

- All living things sense and respond to their environment
- Make observations about living and non-living things in the local environment

Triangle Island Lighthouse

- Demographic changes in North America created shifts in economic and political power.

Spinning Fashion

- Construct narratives that capture the attitudes, values, and worldviews commonly held by people at different times or places

Big Ideas and Curricular Competencies

Grade Five

Art Inspired by the Land

- Works of art influence and are influenced by the world around us.
- Explore connections to identity, place, culture, and belonging through creative expression
- Develop and refine ideas, processes, and technical skills in a variety of art forms to improve the quality of artistic creations

Lather, Rinse, Repeat

- Ask questions, corroborate inferences, and draw conclusions about the content and origins of a variety of sources, including mass media

Bannock

- First Peoples land ownership and use
- Identify First Peoples perspectives and knowledge as sources of information

Artifact Detectives

- Ask questions, corroborate inferences, and draw conclusions about the content and origins of a variety of sources, including mass media

Forestry

- Resources and economic development in different regions of Canada
- Natural resources continue to shape the economy and identity of different regions of Canada.

Butter Making

- Works of art influence and are influenced by the world around us.
- Explore connections to identity, place, culture, and belonging through creative expression

Moss Cottage

- Immigration and multiculturalism continue to shape Canadian society and identity.

Tracks and Scat

- Natural resources continue to shape the economy and identity of different regions of Canada.
- Experience and interpret the local environment

Triangle Island Lighthouse

- Resources and economic development in different regions of Canada
- Differentiate between intended and unintended consequences of events, decisions, and developments, and speculate about alternative outcomes

Spinning Fashion

- Processes, materials, technologies, tools and techniques to support creative works
- Works of art influence and are influenced by the world around us.

Big Ideas and Curricular Competencies

Grade Six

Art Inspired by the Land

- Intentionally select, apply, combine, and arrange artistic elements, processes, materials, movements, technologies, tools, techniques, and environments in art making
- Explore relationships between identity, place, culture, society, and belonging through the arts

Lather, Rinse, Repeat

- Ask questions, corroborate inferences, and draw conclusions about the content and origins of a variety of sources, including mass media

Bannock

- Identify First Peoples perspectives and knowledge as sources of information

Artifact Detectives

- Ask questions, corroborate inferences, and draw conclusions about the content and origins of a variety of sources, including mass media

Forestry

- Globalization and economic interdependence
- Economic policies and resource management, including effects on indigenous peoples

Butter Making

- Have an understanding of heterogeneous mixtures

Moss Cottage

- Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.

Tracks and Scat

- Experience and interpret the local environment

Triangle Island Lighthouse

- Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.

Spinning Fashion

- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of personal, social, cultural, historical, and environmental contexts in relation to the arts.

Sequencing Sooke

- Sequence objects, images, or events, and recognize the positive and negative aspects of continuities and changes in the past and present
- Synthesize ideas from a variety of sources to build understanding

Big Ideas and Curricular Competencies

Grade Seven

Art Inspired by the Land

- Intentionally select and apply materials, movements, technologies, environments, tools, and techniques by combining and arranging artistic elements, processes, and principles in art making
- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of personal, social, cultural, historical, and environmental contexts in relation to the arts

Lather, Rinse, Repeat

- Consider social, ethical, and environmental implications of the findings from their own and others' investigations

Bannock

- Apply First Peoples perspectives and knowledge, other ways of knowing, and local knowledge as sources of information

Artifact Detectives

- Assess the significance of people, places, events, or developments at particular times and places

Forestry

- Geographic conditions shaped the emergence of civilizations.
- Scientific, philosophical, and technological developments

Butter Making

- Use scientific understandings to identify relationships and draw conclusions

Moss Cottage

- Exploring and sharing multiple perspectives extends our thinking.
- Apply appropriate strategies to comprehend written, oral, and visual texts, guide inquiry, and extend thinking

Tracks and Scat

- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Seek patterns and connections in data from their own investigations and secondary sources

Triangle Island Lighthouse

- Exploring and sharing multiple perspectives extends our thinking.
- Scientific, philosophical, and technological developments

Spinning Fashion

- Develop and refine ideas, processes, and technical skills in a variety of art forms to improve the quality of artistic creations

Sequencing Sooke

- Synthesize ideas from a variety of sources to build understanding

Big Ideas and Curricular Competencies

Grade Eight

Art Inspired by the Land

- Intentionally select and apply materials, movements, technologies, environments, tools, and techniques by combining and arranging artistic elements, processes, and principles in art making
- Explore relationships between identity, place, culture, society, and belonging through arts activities and experiences

Lather, Rinse, Repeat

- Consider social, ethical, and environmental implications of the findings from their own and others' investigations

Bannock

- Apply First Peoples perspectives and knowledge, other ways of knowing, and local knowledge as sources of information

Artifact Detectives

- Assess the significance of people, places, events, or developments at particular times and places

Forestry

- Human and environmental factors shape changes in population and living standards.
- Scientific and technological innovations

Butter Making

- The behaviour of matter can be explained by the kinetic molecular theory and atomic theory.

Moss Cottage

- Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.

Tracks and Scat

- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Seek patterns and connections in data from their own investigations and secondary sources

Triangle Island Lighthouse

- Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.

Spinning Fashion

- Assess the significance of people, places, events, or developments at particular times and places

Sequencing Sooke

- Synthesize ideas from a variety of sources to build understanding
- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of evidence