



The Sigal Museum | Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society

342 Northampton Street | Easton, PA 18042 | 610-253-1222

sigalmuseum.org | nchgspa.org | info@northamptonctymuseum.org

Destination: Northampton County **Exhibition Lesson Outline**

Grade: adaptable for K-6

Time: 45 minutes, with 15 minutes for open exploration

Goals:

- Discover what a person's experience to the U.S. might have been like
- Answer the question: *what is community?*
- Experience some of Northampton County's cultural and ethnic communities through true stories
- Explain how we impact our community and ways in which we can make it better

Exhibition Mission: *Destination: Northampton County* aims to celebrate inclusivity, diversity, and community by sharing the stories of those who settled here long ago as well as today. *Destination* makes these stories accessible for families and young people through hands-on learning and by encouraging intergenerational conversation.

Exhibition Big Idea: I have a place in Northampton County



Lesson

Location: Philadelphia Dockside/“Emigrant Depot” Gallery

Focus point: *A Complicated Beginning*

- This introductory “stop” focuses on explaining the effects of European colonization in the 16th and 17th centuries. There were lasting consequences for the entire continent, specifically the Native American communities that had been living there for generations.

Focus point: *Getting to America*

- This part of the lesson focuses on how immigrants came to America. We also point out that not everyone who came to America did so by choice, or had the resources to come without being indentured.
- Washington Avenue Station and Ellis Island

Questions to Consider

- What might the trip coming to America be like?
- Does anyone know where we are?
- Why would we ever have to leave our home?
- What might we bring with us on our journey?
- What sounds do you hear in the dock?

Artifact highlights

- “Hungersnoth in Irland” - Irish potato famine of 1845
- Maria’s Trunk - What’s inside?

Interactive components

- Inspector’s desk
- Smell boxes
- Hands on cultural items: food, clothing, and more
- Pack a suitcase

Extensions

- Timeline
 - Local, state, and national events that impact Northampton County
- Political Cartoons
 - How can art influence us?



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Focus point: *What is Community?*

- Conversation with students about what a community is, and who they consider part of their community.
- Now that we've come to America - what do we do? We find people (communities) like us. [Transition into cultural vignette]

Location: Cultural Vignette/Stories Gallery

Focus point: *Cultural Vignettes and Place-making*

- The Story of Kfarsghab immigrants and Lebanese peddlers
 - Food, faith, and family
- The Great Migration from Cuthbert, Georgia and how African Americans leave the Jim Crow south for a better life in the North (Easton-Bethlehem).
- The barbershop, NAACP/SINYA, #Influencers
- The Jewish Presence in Northampton County
 - The merchant tradition
 - Camptown in Williams Township
- Snapshot stories (various)
- How can we influence our community? How can we affect change?

Artifact highlights

- Kibbeh mortar and pestle (Lebanese culture)
- Resistance flag (Lebanese culture)
- Traditional head-ware (Lebanese culture)
- Hair irons (African American/Barbershop-Salon)
- Debutante Ball gown (SINYA)
- Easton-NAACP Charter
- Early archival documents (Jewish archive)

Interactive components

- mell cooking spices
- Can you lift the peddler's bag?
- Barbershop chair
- Snapshot stories: share a recipe, write a letter, etc.

Extensions

- Urban Renewal: What happens when your community is shattered?