How to book

We welcome many groups to our venues so you must book your visit in advance. All of our activities, including both our museum-led and teacher-led sessions, facilities and new displays are listed in full in the learning sessions database on our website: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learningsessions

Simply visit the website, decide which session(s) you want to attend and then get in touch:

- Group bookings phone line: 0151 478 4788
- Group bookings email: educationbookings@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk
- Our website: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/groupvisits

We will confirm your booking shortly after.

There is also information on our website to help you plan your visit, including risk assessments.

Stay in touch
Sign up for our termly education e-newsletter and receive the latest news on our learning sessions, facilities and new displays. www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/register

If you are interested in museum-based Continuous Professional Development, please email us stating the subjects or venues you are interested in.
Enter a world of learning

Museums and galleries are inspiring places for children, and we offer our primary school pupils a wide range of sessions, activities and topics.

We offer:
• Free admission to our venues
• Sessions specifically tailored to the National Curriculum
• Essential information and advice on planning your visit
• Sessions led by trained museum and gallery staff
• Resources to support your teacher-led visits
• Pre-bookable lunch spaces
• Resources for use back in your setting
• CPD sessions for staff

This booklet provides just a taster of what we offer – visit our website for a full list. www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/groupvisits

Walker Art Gallery

William Brown Street, Liverpool L3 8EL

The Walker is a rich learning resource, with its awe-inspiring collection of paintings, sculpture and objects. Engagement with artworks by artists from the past to the present develops visual literacy, creativity, critical thinking skills and confidence. Our fully interactive sessions particularly support literacy, history, art and design and promote SMSC.

Focus on… Portrait detectives

Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 90 mins
Type of activity: gallery-led
Key stage: 1 and 2

What is a portrait? Why do artists paint them? How is the sitter portrayed? Pupils become sleuths, looking for clues to solve mysteries surrounding some of our famous paintings. They are encouraged to observe and interpret paintings for themselves, and investigate the differences and similarities in the work of artists. During the session confidence, visual literacy, speaking and listening skills are developed. Pupils then take on the role of the artist, following step by step guidance to create wonderful portraits.

I have never been to a gallery before because I thought they were boring, but your gallery was amazing and had some phenomenal paintings.

Pupil, St George’s Primary School

More activities and resources can be found at: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learning
Focus on…
Greek myths
Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: gallery-led
Key stage: 2
A gripping Greek myth is brought to life in this interactive storytelling session, which uses the painting Atalanta and Meleager as a focus. Pupils are encouraged to interpret the story behind the art. What are the characters like? What are they thinking and feeling? They face a moral dilemma… what should happen next? Pupils re-write the ending and use their ideas to compose scripts which are acted out in the Gallery, and can be developed further in class.

Focus on…
Take one picture
Max number: 12 trainees/teachers
Duration: Half day – full day sessions on offer throughout the year
Type of activity: gallery-led
Teachers and trainee teachers are the focus for this training/CPD programme at the Walker. During training, participants learn about selected paintings, looking at techniques, artists and the historical contexts. They are also given strategies to use across subject areas, making these sessions ideal for cross-curricular teaching. There are follow-up classroom activities and return visits to the Gallery, this time with classes. The Walker also hosts an annual Take One Picture exhibition featuring work produced by schools involved in the scheme.

Focus on…
Draw to explore
Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: gallery-led
Key stage: 1 and 2
This popular interactive tour of the Gallery encourages pupils to engage with our artworks through drawing. We talk about the roles of artists, the purpose of art, and what the art is actually about. Pupils are encouraged to say what they see, feel and think about the paintings, sculptures and their surroundings. A series of drawing tasks encourages observation, experimentation and reflection on the process of art creation.

I really enjoyed the Take One project and I know my class gained so much from the project.
Karen Moss, teacher, Lydiate Primary School

More activities and resources can be found at: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learning
Lady Lever
Art Gallery

Port Sunlight Village,
Wirral CH62 7EQ

As well as a stunning collection in a beautiful building, the Lady Lever provides a rich resource for learning. Our interactive sessions develop children's visual literacy, creativity, critical thinking skills and confidence through the study of art and design, world cultures (China), history and maths.

Focus on…
Dragons in Chinese Art

Port Sunlight Village,
Wirral CH62 5EQ

The Lady Lever has a stunning and important collection of Chinese porcelain, and many of the pieces feature dragons. This gallery-led activity sets out to discover the dragons in the collection, using interactive storytelling and object handling to lead pupils to think about Chinese art and culture.

Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: gallery-led
Key stage: 1 and 2

Focus on…
Over and Over (KS1) and Tesselations (KS2)

Port Sunlight Village,
Wirral CH62 5EQ

Children may not realise it, but there is maths all around them – even in an art gallery. We use our collections and the architecture of the Gallery itself to reveal the connections between art and maths. The focus of the visit will ensure children understand repeat patterns, and how shapes and patterns are used to create and enhance our built environment. We also offer a session for older children that explores tesselations.

Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: gallery-led
Key stage: 1 and 2

Focus on…
Introductory tour

Port Sunlight Village,
Wirral CH62 5EQ

The Lady Lever is a beautiful gallery with stunning artworks – the perfect place to introduce young visitors to art and galleries. This tour of the building looks at some of the highlights of the collection, the history of the Gallery, and how Lord Leverhulme used the art works to advertise his soap. A Gallery tour can be part of a local history studies visit in conjunction with a visit to Port Sunlight Museum just across the road.

Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 30 mins
Type of activity: gallery-led
Key stage: 1 and 2

Sudley House

This beautiful merchant’s house in Mossley Hill offers a great opportunity to study the Victorians and learn about the lives of the Holt family through teacher-led trails. Old and new toys help bring the stories to life. Visit our website for more details.

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Port Sunlight Village,
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Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 30 mins
Type of activity: gallery-led
Key stage: 1 and 2

Other activities you might like

• Trails and teacher-led resources focusing on soap paintings and the Victorians
• Teacher-led sessions in our Activity Rooms

More activities and resources can be found at: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learning
Museum of Liverpool

Pier Head,
Liverpool L3 1DG

The history of Liverpool is brought to life in this interactive museum on the waterfront. It was designed and tested with teachers and students to meet different learning styles, and has everything from hands-on access to objects, to group gathering spaces, to source materials for students to make their own investigations.

Focus on... Little Liverpool

Max number: 50 people (inc adults)
Duration: 30 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 1

You can have exclusive use of the gallery that has been designed for children, by children. This session, created for under 7s, includes a Liverpool-themed water interactive Liverpuddles, where children can sail boats, run cars through Mersey Tunnels and fish for pretend marine creatures. They can also create their own Merseyfriend to swim through the river on a plasma screen, interact with our A to Z of objects, and make connections with the outside world using specially-designed interactives.

Focus on... 1960s

Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 2

The Swinging 60s are still talked about today, but what was it like to grow up at that time? Pupils can now find out in this fabulously fun learning session. Costumes, handling objects, music and dance are all used to explore everyday life in the 1960s, and we compare school life and popular childhood pastimes to those of today.

Focus on... Toys

Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 1

Discover just how different your grandparents’ toys were to those of today in this fun, hands-on session. Examine favourite toys, investigate old and new versions, and consider the differences in technology, materials and design that have gone into their creations. We also use a toy timeline to introduce pupils to the idea of a chronology.

Focus on... 1960s

The Let’s Dig session was a practical application of our learning of Romans, Vikings, Tudors and Victorians... Digging for clues and fact finding encouraged the children’s thinking skills and teamwork. All were on task and excited.

KS2 teacher,
Our Lady of Assumption Primary School

Other activities you might like

• It’s a hard knock life: childhood in Victorian Liverpool
• Gateway to the World
• Let’s Dig – become an archaeologist
• Liverpool history of a city
• Victorian pastimes
• The First World War in Liverpool
• Toys, Transport and Victorian trails
• Best buildings
• I like to move it!
• Transport across time
• Liverpool and the Olympics

More activities and resources can be found at: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learning
Focus on… Discovering life in a rock pool

Max number: 30 pupils  
Duration: 50 mins  
Type of activity: museum-led  
Key stage: 2

Rock pools are wonderful places to observe many different animals. This session recreates a British rock pool using live animals from our Aquarium.

After an initial discussion about the role of the oceans, pupils are introduced to the rock pool, using the latest technology to observe live specimens such as crabs, hermit crabs, anemones and starfish. Pupils learn about the adaptations that help these animals survive, then have the opportunity to touch the animals in a safe and controlled way.

Just returned home after visiting with my daughter’s year 5 class. I would just like to say how much I (and my daughter) enjoyed it. The two workshops we attended were excellent and your team members were brilliant!!

Sue Sutton, parent, Oldfield Primary School, Chester

Focus on… Discovering ecosystems

Max number: 35 pupils  
Duration: 40 mins  
Type of activity: museum-led  
Key stage: 2

This basic introduction to one of the most fundamental concepts in ecology allows pupils to apply classroom learning in a museum setting.

Our naturalists use natural science handling collections, practical activities and specimens such as insects, birds, mammals and geological material, to allow students to travel the world looking at different habitats. We will consider nutrient cycling, climate systems, climate change, and how our future lives may change as a result of the things we do, or don’t do, today.

Focus on… Discovering mini beasts

Max number: 30 pupils  
Duration: 45 mins  
Type of activity: museum-led  
Key stage: 2

Our Bug House is a great place to get up close and personal with a range of creepy crawlies. This session uses live specimens from the centre to demonstrate invertebrate variation in relation to environment, behaviour, senses, growth and basic classification/taxonomy. Visual technology brings these mini beasts to gigantic scale, allowing pupils to see them in great detail, including their specially adapted body parts that enable them to survive and dominate our world.

More activities and resources can be found at: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learning
Focus on… Explore and discover ancient Egypt

Max number: 32 pupils  
Duration: 50 mins  
Type of activity: museum-led  
Key stage: 2

This hands-on workshop allows pupils to touch real objects from the ancient world. Pupils become junior archaeologists and discover what objects reveal about the people who lived in ancient Egypt. Pupils can touch artefacts such as canopic jars, and are encouraged to imagine the person who carefully carved and used the jar more than 3,000 years ago. Which god is represented on the jar, what does it tell us, and how did the jar survive for thousands of years?

Focus on… Explore and discover ancient Greece

Max number: 32 pupils  
Duration: 50 mins  
Type of activity: museum-led  
Key stage: 2

This hands-on workshop transports pupils to the wonders of ancient Greece, as we look at, handle and discuss the evidence revealed by real museum artefacts. Pupils examine objects like a statue and imagine the person who carefully carved it more than 2,000 years ago. Why carve a statue of someone in armour? What was the real armour made from? What was the life of a Greek soldier like? All will be discovered during this exciting hands-on workshop.

World Museum has some wonderful Egyptian artefacts, and these help pupils analyse and explore how ancient Egyptian civilization and life was shaped by the harsh desert environment and the life-giving River Nile. We will look at the Egyptians’ relationship with the natural world in terms of their gods and myths, but also in the practical ways they used natural resources. This unique learning experience uses Museum objects to illustrate how ancient civilisations evolved and developed over time using materials they had to hand.

What a fabulous time the Year 4s had last Friday when they visited the Museum to look at the Egyptian exhibits. It’s amazing how some ‘soggy wool’ and a crochet needle can get us all squeamish! The children loved it!!

Helen, head teacher, Valewood Primary School

Other activities you might like

• Discovering living things
• Explore and discover natural history
• Flight
• Habitats and food chains
• Rocks, fossils and minerals
• Skeletons, bones and teeth
• The natural history of the ancient Greeks
• Invaders
• Discovering spiders and scorpions

More activities and resources can be found at: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learning
Merseyside Maritime Museum

Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ

A visit to the Merseyside Maritime Museum - surrounded by docks and ships - brings learning to life. We offer hands-on sessions and workshops using role-play, storytelling, handling collections, simple science experiments, and treasure hunts!

Focus on…
Voyage of discovery

Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 2

The sinking of the Titanic in April 1912 still fires the imagination of school children, and this workshop brings the story to life. Drama and objects are used to tell the tale of that fateful journey, looking at the British class system, the reasons for the sinking, and the emotional, financial and physical repercussions. Pupils will gain a unique Liverpool perspective on the facts and myths surrounding this disaster.

Focus on…
Living in the 40s

Max number: 45 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 2

Life on the home front was difficult during the Second World War. Pupils discover just how difficult in this unique immersive session led by Liverpool Women’s History Group. Using original Museum objects students will experience the hardships first hand, including evacuation, rationing, make do and mend, and even how to survive an air raid.

Focus on…
Pirates Ahoy!

Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 1 and 2

Life for a pirate during the golden age of piracy in the 17th century wasn’t all it was cracked up to be. This interactive session explores the truth behind pirate life, which included horrible food, terrible conditions, rats and weevils! Students will discover the different parts of the ship and attempt some of the jobs on board. Singing shanties and hunting for treasure with our pirate captain may make life more bearable. You will soon discover that treasure isn’t always pieces of eight!

Focus on…
Other activities you might like

• Museum-led tour of the wartime Piermaster’s House with teacher-led rationing workshop
• 1940s propaganda posters workshop
• Vikings – story telling and handling session
• Shipshape – the science of how ships float, move through water etc.
• A tour of Liverpool’s 300 year old Old Dock

My year 5 children enjoyed their visit and the EXCELLENT Titanic workshop. They were buzzing all the way home and actually used the word “inspiring”!

Justin Clarke, St John’s CE Primary School, Staffs

The Living in the 40s afternoon was amazing, educational, informative, interactive and above all inspiring. We have told all of the schools we are working with how brilliant the session was.

Sue Temple-Fielding, Knowsley Enterprise Academy

More activities and resources can be found at: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learning
International Slavery Museum

Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ

The sights and sounds of West Africa are brought to life for primary level visitors at the International Slavery Museum. This multi-sensory experience discovers what everyday life was like in West Africa before slavery by exploring traditional music and art. The emphasis is on interaction with opportunities to handle real and replica objects.

Focus on...

Life in West Africa

Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 2

Pupils become history detectives and work in groups during this session to examine traditional West African objects that would have been used before transatlantic slavery. The session demonstrates the wealth, creativity and ingenuity of West African people, and challenges possible preconceived ideas about these diverse and rich cultures. Pupils will also develop their communication skills as they present their findings to their class and learn from each other.

Focus on...

Taste of African Music

Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 1 and 2

Music, instruments and song are an integral part of most traditional African communities, and vary not only from country to country but from village to village. They are used for religious ceremonies, rituals, to teach, to tell stories and to mark the stages of life and death. Guided by our specialist demonstrator, pupils learn about and listen to different African instruments, discovering what part of Africa they come from, their usages, materials, and how they differ from those found in other parts of the world.

Focus on...

Art of adinkra

Max number: 20 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 2

Adinkra are visual symbols, originally created by the Akan people of Ghana and still used today to decorate fabrics, wood craft and pottery. Each symbol has its own meaning, and the processes involved in the making of the dye and adinkra stamps demonstrate great skill. Students get hands-on and work together to produce a piece of adinkra fabric to take back to school. This is a fun and creative activity which also engages students with a rich and diverse African culture.

More activities and resources can be found at: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learning

Many thanks for a fantastic day. The children were fascinated and the member of your staff who ran the ‘Life in West Africa’ handling session was super.

Alison Wild, Tebay Community Primary School

Other activities you might like

- Uli workshop – discovering the meanings behind these Nigerian symbols
- African batik – making African-inspired batik to take back to school
Seized!
Albert Dock
Liverpool L3 4AQ

The world of smuggling and smugglers is brought to life at Seized! At primary level we look at smuggling from the 1600s to the present day, using fun and informative sessions to encourage pupils to question the reasons behind the trade. We specialise in high quality issue-based sessions, covering medicines and drugs use.

Focus on…
Seize the smuggler
Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 2

Mother Redcap was a renowned 1700s smuggler who ran Mother Redcap's Inn in Wallasey. Here she is recreated by Seized! staff, and teaches pupils about historic smuggling, from cargoes to signalling, to landing a shipment of smuggled goods.

However, smuggling never has been risk free, and so we look at the historic and modern dangers both for those who get involved and the Customs Officers who try to stop them.

Focus on…
Customs Contraband
Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 2

Many pupils will have seen Customs Officers at airports and ports and wondered what they do. This handling session looks at their work as part of UK Border Force, and allows children to learn what people try to smuggle into the country and how they attempt to do it. Our fascinating handling collection is made up of objects seized by the Border Force in the course of their work, and makes for a unique and informative session.

Focus on…
Pills, Pop and Potions
Max number: 30 pupils
Duration: 60 mins
Type of activity: museum-led
Key stage: 1 and 2

The booze goggle challenge is a fun activity with a serious side for pupils taking part in this interactive session, as we look at the risks and side effects of commonly available drugs, such as alcohol, medicines and tobacco. The session aims to equip children with the knowledge to make healthy choices, and presents the issues in a calm and non-judgemental manner. The session makes a great starting point for classroom discussions about healthy lifestyles and our bodies.

Other activities you might like
Rummage – undergo part of the training to become a Rummage Officer and search our ship’s cabin for smuggled goods.

More activities and resources can be found at: www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/learning