Raiders of the Lost Archives

Teacher’s Notes
**Raiders of the Lost Archives**

**DAYS:** Thursdays  
**TIME:** 12:30pm-2:00pm  
**GRADES:** Suitable for Grades 6-7

**Aim**

*Raiders of the Lost Archives* is designed as a complementary program to the Social Studies curriculum for Grades 6-7. Students will be introduced to an array of historical records (ranging from textual documents, photos, maps, oral history interviews and more), will learn how to decipher information contained within various sources, and learn the differences between primary and secondary sources. The program also provides students with an introduction to an archives and its role in the community.

**Learning Outcomes:**

**Grade 6:**  
Skills & Processes of Social Studies: A1, A2, A3  
English Language Arts: A1, A6

**Grade 7:**  
Skills & Processes of Social Studies: A1, A3, A5  
English Language Arts: A1, A6, B2

**Content**

*Raiders of the Lost Archives* is presented by Archives staff/volunteers. The program begins with a general introduction to the Surrey Archives and the resources it collects and the overall goals of the program. In the last portion of the introduction, students will learn some important terms related to archives and historical sources. Following the introduction, the class is split in two, with one group staying in the Archives Reference Room, while the other heads to a different location in the building.

Both groups will be further separated into small groups (2-4, depending on class size) and rotate through a circuit of research stations, with each station containing a different type of research material. Students answer questions in their workbook related to each station. One group focuses on researching a pioneer Surrey family, while the other learns of important themes and facts re: Surrey’s history. The two main groups swap places halfway through the program.

Once the research stations have been navigated, the entire class will gather together in the Archives Reference Room to close out the program. Students will be asked to share some of the answers to the questions in their workbooks and asked to share their impressions of using an archives and its many different resources. At the back of each workbooks are two sheets which invite the students to write a history of the pioneer family they just studied as well as a general history of Surrey.

**Organization**

- Please arrive **five minutes** before your program’s scheduled time.
- Please have each student wear a “first name” tag in print large enough to be read from a distance. Docents develop a better rapport with students if they can call the students by their names.
- Staff/volunteers will meet your class at the Archives entrance and escort them to the Archives Reference Room where the program will begin.
All groups will participate in all activities. Coats, lunches and other materials are to be left in the Archives Reference Room Closet.

No food, drinks or pens are allowed when handling archival material. Pencils will be provided. Should a student need a drink or a snack from his/her bag, he/she can drink or eat in the foyer.

Please encourage accompanying adults to disperse themselves between the two groups.

Preparation

Knowledge of the vocabulary below will be useful, though it will be reviewed at the start of the program.

- An **Archives** is a place where records of historical value are kept for future generations.
- An **Archivist** is the keeper of the records.
- A **Copy** is a reproduction of an original document.
- A **Finding Aid** is a guide to show the researcher what kinds of records are kept in the Archives, how many there are, and where they are stored.
- An **Original** is a document in its first and complete form, and is unique. An original is something from which a copy is made.
- **Preservation** is the safe storage and protection of records against damage and decay.
- **Primary Sources** are one-of-a-kind, unique, irreplaceable documents, such as diaries, photographs, maps and recordings. They are often made at the time as an event by eye-witnesses.
- A **Record** is a document made or received in the course of practical activity (for example, a school attendance register, a flight ticket, a doctor’s notes on a sick patient).
- A **Secondary Source** is any material, often published in a book, magazine or newspaper which takes its information from earlier, eye-witness or first-hand accounts.

Evaluation

Your feedback is very important to us. We want to know if this program met its learning objectives and if you and the students enjoyed your visit to the Surrey Archives. Please complete and return the Program Evaluation form. The information you provide will assist us to make revisions or to improve the presentations to meet your needs and expectations.

For more information, please contact:

**Archives Reference Staff**  
Surrey Archives  
17671 – 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  V3S 1C9  
Telephone: 604-502-6459  
Fax: 604-502-6457
Directions to the Surrey Archives

17671 – 56 Avenue, Surrey, B.C.

School Field Trip Contact Phone: 604-502-6459

- From 176 Street (Highway 15), turn east on #10 Highway. As you proceed, you will pass the Museum on the north side of the highway.
- Turn north at the lights on to 177B Street.
- Make the next turn west on to 56A Avenue.
- Turn left into the Surrey Museum Parking Lot and walk west across plaza to Surrey Archives.