Ways of Life: 6th-8th Grade

Museum Manners
Please review these guidelines with your students before your visit to the museum.
- Touching can permanently damage works of art. Please don’t touch the art or lean on the walls in the galleries.
- Food, drinks, and gum are not permitted in the galleries.
- Be careful where you walk! Try to stay at least arms-length from any work of art.
- No pens, backpacks or large bags are allowed in the galleries.

Big Ideas & Major Themes
Here’s some information relating to your program to review with your students before visiting the museum.
- Art can serve a multitude of purposes—it can serve a religious function, an everyday function or be educational.
- Artwork can give important information about who created or used it and the society it came from.

Standards Addressed
VA 6-8 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2; 7-1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.3, 5.1, 6.2; 8-1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.3, 5.1, 6.2
De.C.1H.7, C.AL.7, C.NM.8
ELA 13, P.7, C.1.1, 1.2
SS 6-1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.6, 3.1, 6.1; 7-1.5, 2.2, 3.4, 4.3, 5.3; 8-1.1, 1.4, 4.6, 5.5, 5.6, 6.2, 6.4, 7.1, 7.4  5-P.5A.1

In the Classroom
Prepare students for your visit with one or more of these activities.
- Examine a portrait together as a class (The Time Collection at NPG, see below, offers a wide variety). Make inferences and draw conclusions about the person based on what students can see in the image. As an extension, use an image of a person as a writing prompt.
- Discuss various objects from a given historical era, analyzing what they can tell us about life at that time. Alternately, gather a number of object images (NMAH has extensive online collections) and have students guess the era they came from.
- Challenge students to consider the natural resources around the school. Ask them to create an object, individually or in groups, using only materials they can find outside. Choose parameters (decorative or utilitarian; with a specific function or not) and later discuss the process and what tools would have been useful, relating this to early civilizations.

Resources
Want to explore more? Use these references to learn and share information with your students.
- Collections by Subject: Nat’l Museum American History http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/subjects
- Explore the Collection by Periods: Cooper Hewitt Museum https://collection.cooperhewitt.org/periods/