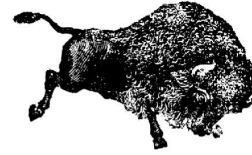


A Teacher's Guide to **Trappers, Traders, and Trailblazers** (Grades 4-8) Guided Tour Experience



Buffalo Bill Historical Center
720 Sheridan Avenue
Cody, WY 82414

Tour Description

Explore the adventurous culture of the West during the time of the trappers, traders, and trailblazers. Discover the tools and techniques that mountain men used to survive in the wilderness, and see how they influenced the American West.

Objectives

- To introduce students to mountain men, who they were, how they lived and the tools they used in order to survive.
- To teach the role of the beaver in American history and its importance as a natural and economic resource.

Suggested Activities To Do Before Your Tour

- Discuss your upcoming trip to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center: Have your class brainstorm a list of good rules to follow while at the museum.
- Discuss the different reasons a young man might become a mountain man.
- Look at a map of the United States. Identify the different major rivers that mountain men may have used to travel into the American West.
- Discuss the following vocabulary words:

habitat

explorer

entrepreneur

felt cloth

rendezvous

pelt

Suggested Activities To Do After Your Tour

- Borrow the *Trappers, Traders, and Trailblazers: Mountain Men in the Rocky Mountain West* trunk.
- Research the American Fur Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. Discuss the similarities and differences of the companies.
- Research different mountain men of the Rocky Mountain West. Present your findings to the class and discuss.