

## EDUCATIONAL TRUNKS Available in NW Montana



### Art & Indian Education



**Traveling Medicine Show** – (Grades K-12) – from the Hockaday Museum of Art, Cost: \$175 for a full day – exhibit set up, presentations, art projects with 2-3 class sized groups. Cost is \$275 for a Blackfeet artist to come also. (Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268 or [education@hockadaymuseum.org](mailto:education@hockadaymuseum.org)) – First Nation artwork from the Northern Plains in three trunks: Trunk One: *Ancient Case* -- Bow and arrow, shield, parfleche etc. from long ago; Trunk Two: *Traditional Case* -- Ceremonial and everyday clothing, moccasins, dolls, cradle board, drum and pipe, decorative beadwork, etc.; Trunk Three: *Contemporary Case* -- Current art, artists, and traditions.

**From Plains To Plateau: Artistic Traditions of Northwest Montana Tribes**–(Grades K-12) – free for Hockaday Museum of Art Member Schools, \$25 for others (Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268 or [education@hockadaymuseum.org](mailto:education@hockadaymuseum.org)) Blackfeet and other artists from the Northern Plains share their culture through traditional, historic, and contemporary art. Items in this trunk include both one and two piece moccasins, jewelry, a Blackfeet doll, games, parfleche, CD's, photographs, art prints, posters, a touch and feel box of raw material samples, and a teacher's trunk guide.

**Home on the Plains: Artistry of Montana Indian Tribes**–(Grades K-12) – free for Hockaday Museum of Art Member Schools, \$25 for others (Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268 or [education@hockadaymuseum.org](mailto:education@hockadaymuseum.org)) The focus of this trunk is the culture and art associated with historical home life of Plains Indian Tribes. Blackfeet tipi prints, a model lodge, an envelope parfleche, games, books, art prints, paintings, and raw material samples fill this trunk. The accompanying trunk guide includes artist biographies, reference materials, and an assortment of art projects.

**Indian Education for All Book Club Trunks** – free from NW Montana Educational Cooperative (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office at 406/752-3302, <http://www.nwmteeducationalcoop.org>)

### Birds

**Bird ID and Costume Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Cooperative Office at 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) What's a great way to learn about birds? By becoming one of course! This trunk provides a costume to dress your students up with all the major bird adaptations to turn them into "real" birds of a feather! Appropriate from Pre-school to middle school. <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/>



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**Common Birds of the Flathead Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Cooperative Office at 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - Students will learn about the most visible birds around Flathead Valley. Trunk includes preserved bird specimens, slides, CD, pictures and worksheets! Appropriate from Elementary to High School. Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12. <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/>

**Field Studies Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Cooperative Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - There are two trunks of materials for the Studies: A classroom set of 18 Peterson Bird Guides and 10 binoculars for 4th or 5th grade and above. For younger students (Pre-school to 3rd or 4th grade) there is also a classroom set of 10 Montana Birds field guides and 10 smaller-sized binoculars. The second set can also be used by older students. Use of these trunks can help your students gain basic birding skills including use and care of binoculars and bird identification techniques! <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/>

**The Changing Neighborhood Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Cooperative Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - Use felt figures to relay the story of environmental change and the effects of change on native species. Appropriate for Pre-school, Primary and Elementary. <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/>

**Maggie the Magpie Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Cooperative Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - Have your students take Maggie the Magpie (a puppet) home and journal about her activities! This is a great one for getting those shy birds in your class to fledge! Appropriate for Elementary. <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/>

**Cavity Nesters Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Cooperative Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - Tell the wonderful story of life in dead trees! Students will explore the adaptations and life cycles of native birds that use dead trees for food and shelter. Trunk includes puppets, activity pages, preserved bird specimens, real cavity nests and much, much more! Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12. <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/>

**Hummingbird Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Cooperative Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - Did you know a hummingbird only weighs as much as a penny? Learn all about this lightweight of the bird world with the Hummingbird Trunk! Trunk includes a 30 minute narrative with visual aids, puppets and puppet show scripts, specimens, research units on our native hummingbirds and a “humdinger” of a resource notebook. Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12. <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/>

**Owls** – (Grades K-5) free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Cooperative Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)). Includes owl specimens, dissected pellets, tools to dissect your own pellets (you’ll need to supply the pellets themselves), a bird costume, funnels to demonstrate asymmetrical hearing, books and a teacher guide with lesson plan ideas. <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/>



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**Snowy Owls Who Are They? Book and Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Cooperative Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)). Audubon and the Owl Research Institute joined together to develop this trunk based on the book written by Ansley Watson Ford and Denver Holt. Appropriate from Elementary to Middle School.  
<https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/>

**Songbird Kit** – (Grades K-8) – free from Glacier National Park (register online <https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>) This dynamic trunk has activities geared for the classroom as well as outdoors relating to songbirds and migration. Resource materials, activities, videos, a felt storyboard, posters, recorded bird songs, and puppets all help students learn more about the natural history of several Montana songbirds.

## **Climate Change**

**Climate Change Trunk** – (Grades 6-8) – free from Glacier National Park (register online <https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>) A complete set of materials to conduct the 2-week unit from Facing the Future: “Climate Change: Connections and Solutions.” Videos, web links, books, and hands-on interactive games help students understand the basics behind the science of climate change as well as the social and economic implications.

**Repeat Photography Trunk** – (Grades 6-8) – free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>) The **Repeat Photo Trunk** combines photography with precipitation measurement lessons to teach students about Earth's water and energy cycles and the importance of mountain ice. Images included in this exhibit represent a sampling of the US Geological Survey's (USGS) Repeat Photography Project in Glacier, which conveys how much the glaciers have melted, indicating a warming climate.

## **Fire & Fire Ecology**



**Fire Works** – (Grades 1-10) – 2 trunks locally: free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>) free from Flathead National Forest (call 406/758-5218 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us); Interactive, hands-on material to study the forces that cause change in forests, particularly wildland fire. Activities and lessons in the curriculum are tied to a collection of teaching tools to help students learn about fire ecology in three kinds of forests found in the northern Rocky Mountains. Curriculum linked to national educational standards.

For more information and to download the curriculum visit the following web site: <https://www.firelab.org/project/fireworks-educational-program-0>



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## **Forestry**

***From the Tree 2 You!*** – developed by Women in Timber (Contact: Holly McKenzie, 406-892-4141, [glynholly@gmail.com](mailto:glynholly@gmail.com)) Collection of reference materials, suggested activities and hands-on tools for learning about forests, forest products and tree species.

***Forestry Tool Kit*** -- (Grades 5-12)—free from Swan Valley Connections (406 754-3137, Leanna Grubaugh [leanna@svconnections.org](mailto:leanna@svconnections.org)) The kit contains forestry vests and professional forestry tools-- clinometer, cruisers crutch BAF ruler, silva compass, tatum, 20' and 50' dbh tapes, 50' and 100' measuring tapes and stereoscopes for reading aerial photographs. There are enough tools to outfit six to eight groups of students. Great kit to use with Project Learning Tree lessons. <https://www.plt.org/>

## **History**

***Land of Many Stories*** – (Grades 4) - free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>) Trunk was created by the Montana Historical Society as part of Glacier's Centennial Commemoration. It is geared toward 4th grade but many of the lessons can be used for higher grades. Topics include Montana's Indian Tribes, the railroad and building of the park chalets, early tourism and marketing, how artists influenced information and knowledge about the park, and careers and jobs that people have had in Glacier. There are two copies of the trunk. One is available from West Glacier and the other is available from the Montana Historical Society in Helena. The lessons for the trunk are on-line at the museum's website at <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/footlocker/default.asp>.

***Meet the Conrads*** – (Grade 2-6) - free from Conrad Mansion (Contact Conrad Mansion Museum at 755-2166, [info@conradmansion.com](mailto:info@conradmansion.com)) The Conrad Mansion Museum has created this traveling trunk for teachers to bring into the classroom to either enhance a planned field trip to the Mansion or to give dimension to an existing lesson. The trunk is filled with primary artifacts (real when possible, reproductions when necessary). These artifacts include clothing, writing tools, kitchen utensils, photos and maps. The trunk includes a teacher's guide to help you direct activities and bring depth to the materials in the trunk. The trunk is designed to be self-contained and is meant for students in 2nd grade. It can, however, be adapted for use by older students and adults.

***Traditional Native Games Trunk*** – (Grades K-10) - free from Glacier National Park (register online <https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>) The traditional games trunk combines fun and engaging games with the rich cultural background of the tribes that first developed them. The trunk contains the necessary equipment to play the different games, including at least one game from each of the tribes in Montana, as well as detailed instructions on how each game is played, background information, lesson plans, and the cultural significance of each game. The lesson plans were created by the Montana Office of Public Instruction in collaboration with the International Traditional Games Society.



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## Plants

**Glacier's Plant Invaders** – (Grades 3-12) - free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>) Materials in this trunk were put together for upper elementary school field trips to learn about science and one way to collect data on non-native, invasive plants in Glacier National Park. They have been expanded to now include lesson plans for middle and high schoolers. Students learn about 4 species – Spotted knapweed, St. Johnswort, Houndstongue, and Oxeye daisies. There are sample data sheets, identification guides, a power point, and background information about doing science and why these plants are not wanted here.

## Snow and Winter Safety

**Snow Safety Tool Kit** – (Grades 5-12) – free from Flathead Natl. Forest/Flathead Avalanche Center (call 406/758-5218 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us)) - This trunk focuses on snow safety and winter preparedness. With full snow science study kits, avalanche rescue gear and a library of books and web based content this trunk is a perfect introduction to the study of snow and avalanche safety. Appropriate for 5-12th grade students. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/flathead/learning>; <http://www.flatheadavalanche.org/education>

## Water

**Becoming Watershed Citizens**- (Grades K-12) – free from Flathead Lakers, (Contact: Hilary Devlin, [hilary@flatheadlakers.org](mailto:hilary@flatheadlakers.org)) The Flathead Lakers developed Becoming Watershed Citizens, a watershed education program for elementary students to increase their understanding of the physical, biological, historical and social components of the Flathead Watershed and their interconnections. The program includes classroom lessons and activities and is best when paired with a field trip to the Flathead Biological Station. The Flathead Watershed trunk contains maps and information unique to the Flathead Watershed. These materials include a teacher's addition with discussion prompts, a large hand-painted floor map, wooden character figures and mounted photographs used as props for telling the Wild River Journey: Clark Fork – Pend Oreille Watershed Story.

**Rolling Rivers Trailer** – (Grades 4-8) – free from Flathead County Conservation District (Call 406/752-4220 [cinkelfinger@flatheadcd.org](mailto:cinkelfinger@flatheadcd.org)) – Several types of river systems can be modeled using this large sandbox, plastic houses, vegetation, and, of course, water! Through this interactive display students learn how waterways and citizens can coexist. A certified trainer will accompany the trailer and lead the activity.

**The Power of Water** – (Grades PreK to 8) - free from the US Bureau of Reclamation, Hungry Horse Dam (Contact Prudence Crampton, 406/250-5576 [pcrampton@usbr.gov](mailto:pcrampton@usbr.gov)). Older students will enjoy the book Hydroelectric Power Generation as well as a Thomas & Kosmos Hydropower Hydro-Power Science kit along with an R. B. Manufacturing Power Wheel Hydroelectric Teaching Bundle. Available to younger students are several Energy Info booklets along with a hand held dynamo squeeze flashlight, a hand held energy light stick and a plasma ball.



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Please be specific as to which age level(s) in your request. Call to arrange school tours of the Visitor's Center and the exterior top of the dam. Nearby picnic areas are available for school classes wishing to have lunch in the area.

**Riparian Wetlands: Birds and the River** - (Grades 4-8) – free from Flathead Audubon Society (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) Developed in partnership with Flathead Audubon and the Flathead Conservation District for educating on the importance of wetland and riparian areas for protecting or improving water quality from nonpoint source pollution, and their importance for wildlife and habitat. Trunk contains a variety of hands-on activities that are correlated to National Science Education Standards for K-12; includes a developed unit of study, with recommended activities. <https://www.flatheadaudubon.org/learn/educational-trunks/>

## Wildlife

**Amphibian and Reptile Trunk** – (Grades K-6) – free from Flathead National Forest (call 406/758-5218 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us)) – Check out this trunk to discover what makes amphibians and reptiles so special. Videos, books, resource guides and a notebook full of suggested classroom activities make learning about the adaptations, conservation, and identification of Montana species fun! Trunk includes six junior size nets. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/flathead/learning>

**Aquatic Box, Cat Box, Elk Box, Furbearer Box, Wolf Box, Bear Box, Big Game Box, Goat Box & Bird Box** – free from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (call the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Kalispell Office 406/752-5501) – Nine trunks circulate locally and contain skulls, pelts, brochures, books and other materials. For a list of wildlife trunks offered state-wide, visit: <http://fwp.mt.gov/education/teachers/>



**Bat Box** – (Grades K-6) – free from Flathead National Forest (call 406/758-5218 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us)) “Sleep all Day, Play all Night. What kids wouldn’t like bats?”— from poster in the trunk. Trunk contains bat puppets, books, posters and lots more to explore the life and history of bats.

**Bear Trunk** – (Grades K-12) – free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>)

Background material, research guides, and props to facilitate discussions about bears of the world, their habitats, and food sources. Emphasis is on black and grizzly bears including how to tell them apart and how to hike/camp safely in bear country. Activity guide and sample lesson plan included. With additional materials available on the web, upper grades can benefit from information regarding scientific method and results of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem DNA research study to determine population size as well as information about listing of the grizzly bear as an endangered species.



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**Loon Trunk** – (Grades pre-K-12) – *free from Montana Loon Society (or call 406/758-5218 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us))* – Meet “Lottie” the Loon, who plays a true loon wail, learn how to identify a loon by dressing up a student, participate in games to learn how pollution is harmful to loons through the process of bioaccumulation; examine topographic maps to determine what lakes would make a good territory for a pair of nesting loons. This box contains a wealth of fun, hands-on items including a loon egg replica, puppets, scripts, videos, posters and much more to learn about Montana loons. A three-ring notebook is full of lesson and activity ideas. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/flathead/learning>

**Mosquito Trunk** – (Elementary to adult) -- *free from Flathead County Mosquito District (call Bruce Gunderson, 406/751-8145 or [bgunderson@flathead.mt.gov](mailto:bgunderson@flathead.mt.gov))* — Want to learn about mosquitos and how Flathead County controls the flying arthropods? Check out the mosquito trunk. The box contains puppets and a costume that display the different stages of the mosquito life cycle. A fun play, and webbing activity allow an entire class to explore mosquitoes’ roles in the larger ecosystem. For further investigation, the trunk contains the “Bugopoly” board game, informational PowerPoint slide shows, a jeopardy game on PowerPoint, a word search, a sample dipping cup, and several copies of the book, The Summer the Town Bit Back. Teachers and students can explore the trunk on their own, or can schedule a presentation from mosquito control personnel and a professional naturalist and educator.

**Sally Snag** – (Pre-K & Primary Grades) – *free from Flathead National Forest (call 406/758-5218 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us))* Bring a “dead” tree into your classroom, with Sally Snag! Sally shows kids how wildlife benefits from dead trees. Sally is easily set up with a fabric piece, tent poles, and hoola-hoops. Sally comes with an assortment of wildlife puppets and script. Sally can also become Sammy Snag depending on who is “playing the snag”. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/flathead/learning>

**Skulls Kit** – (Grades 3-12) --- *Free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>)* Are you interested in animal predator/prey relationships? Maybe you are even interested in learning about the differences between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores through their teeth. Check out this trunk if you or your class are interested in learning more about the identification of several animals through looking at their bone structure. This trunk comes with several excellent lesson plans for all ages, however, it is best suited for 3rd-12th graders.

**Wolf Trunk** – (Grades K-12) – *free from Glacier National Park (register online <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm> and free from Flathead National Forest (call 406/758-5218 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us))* Includes pelts, skulls, tapes of wolf howls, videos, track casts and activity guide. Great for learning about predator/prey relationships and food chains. Includes background materials for older students to debate controversial management strategies.



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*Other educational trunks may be obtained (often for a fee plus shipping) from organizations outside the Flathead Valley. See these websites for more information:*

***Museum of the Rockies, Lending Library Outreach Kits*** – (Grades K-5) – \$25 plus shipping. Call 406/994-5257 or reserve online. Several trunks available within the following themes, Astronomy, Paleontology, Indian Ed for All, and Yellowstone.

<https://www.museumoftherockies.org/education/schools-educators/classroom-resources/>

***Montana Historical Society*** – (Grades K-8) – 20 hands-on history footlockers! To order, call the Society's Education Office at 406/444-9553 or complete an on-line reservation form. Please book early.– Footlockers contain reproduction artifacts, photographs, cassette tapes or videos, clothing, and tools related to the topic. User Guides contain: historical narratives; a bibliography; compliance with Montana Standards for Social Studies; and lessons. <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/Footlocker>

***Montana Natural History Center, Nature Discovery Traveling Trunks (Msla.)*** – Over 20 available trunks! Trunks can be rented for up to three weeks for \$45. (one week, \$25; two weeks, \$35) Reserve trunk online <http://www.montanaturalist.org/teacher-resources/traveling-trunks/>.