Heritage Educational Program

Unlocking the Past: Investigating Local History and Heritage

(Grade 5–Grade 6)

Introduction

Shepparton Heritage Centre's Heritage Education Programs bring local history to life through hands-on engagement with significant documents, artefacts and memorabilia from across Greater Shepparton region. Participants gain insight into the community's heritage and development, building a strong sense of identity and pride while drawing lessons that inform the future.

Unlocking the Past: Investigating Local History and Heritage (Grade 5 – Grade 6)

Students engage in an in-depth exploration of local history through structured, hands-on learning experiences. Using historical inquiry skills, learners analyse a slide show presentation, museum objects, photographs, and significant local sites to investigate how communities have changed over time. Through activities such as timelines, scavenger hunts, and problem-solving challenges, students develop skills in questioning, interpreting evidence, collaboration, and critical thinking. The program provides a safe, supportive environment that encourages meaningful connections to heritage and a deeper understanding of the past.

Program:

Introduction (5 mins) Welcome. Overview of activities, expectations, safety procedures and considerations for museum items. Split students into appropriate size groups. Students will rotate as a group between the following activities. Teachers, Support Staff and SHC Volunteer to accompany students.

Activity 1: Photo Slideshow (15-20 mins)

Students participate in an engaging photo slideshow that explores historical development, landmarks and buildings in Shepparton, alongside early school photographs and images of children's games and play from past generations.

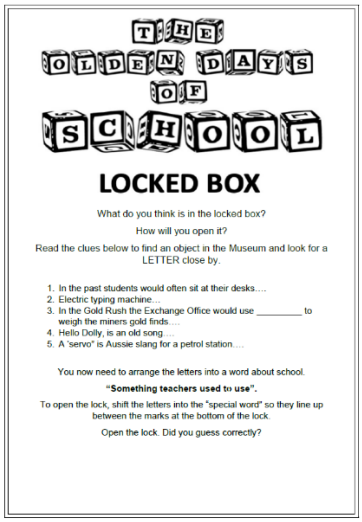
Through guided discussion and questioning, students interpret historical evidence, share observations, and make connections between the past and present. This activity encourages critical thinking, curiosity, and collaboration while fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Shepparton's heritage and community history.

Activity 2: Scavenger Hunt Lock Box Activity (15-20 mins)

Students work collaboratively in small groups to solve a historical inquiry challenge. Using the clues

provided on the Locked Box Activity Card, students locate specific objects throughout the Museum and search nearby for hidden alphabet letters. Each letter discovered is recorded by the group.

Once all letters have been collected, students work together to arrange them into a word connected to an item historically used by teachers in classrooms. The completed word provides the code needed to unlock the letter lock box and reveal the mystery item inside.



THE OLDEN DAYS OF SCHOOL

LOCKED BOX

What do you think is in the locked box?

How will you open it?

Read the clues below to find an object in the Museum and look for a LETTER close by.

1. In the past students would often sit at their desks....
2. Electric typing machine....
3. In the Gold Rush the Exchange Office would use _____ to weigh the miners gold finds....
4. Hello Dolly, is an old song....
5. A 'servo" is Aussie slang for a petrol station....

You now need to arrange the letters into a word about school.

"Something teachers used to use".

To open the lock, shift the letters into the "special word" so they line up between the marks at the bottom of the lock.

Open the lock. Did you guess correctly?

<u>Activity 3:</u> Shepparton Beginnings Historical Walk. (15mins)

Students will participate in a guided walk through the Shepparton Historical Precinct, exploring significant landmarks, monuments, and sites connected to the town's early development. Using historical photographs and guided discussion, students will compare past and present-day Shepparton, identifying changes that have occurred over time. The walk encourages students to develop historical inquiry, observation, and critical thinking skills while building connections to the community's heritage.

Unlocking Local History & Heritage-Outcomes

This program will inspire students to explore and appreciate the history of Shepparton and understand how everyday life has evolved over time. By connecting the past with the present, students will develop curiosity, understanding, and respect for the people, places, and stories that continue to shape our community today and into the future.

Through engaging with the community's heritage, culture, and historical development, students will build a strong sense of identity and pride while gaining valuable perspectives and insights that support thoughtful and informed decision-making for the future.

"Preserving the Past to Preserve the Future"