

1 Gambling sticks



The 'stick game' was first played by peoples of the Northwest Coast of North America and was spread by traders travelling up and down the coast. It was fun and helped children learn to negotiate – a useful skill for a trader. What have you learnt by playing a game?

2 Whalebone club



This whalebone club comes from the Nuu-chah-nulth peoples of Vancouver Island, Canada. Whale hunts (now banned) were dangerous but important as one whale could provide enough food for a community for a year. Clubs were also kept as trophies, showing that the wearer had hunted a whale for his people.

3 Woollen Chilkat blanket



Chilkat blankets can take over a year to weave. They were the dancing robes of high-ranking people of the Northwest Coast in the 19th century and are still worn for special ceremonies today by groups of people such as the Haida. Do you wear special clothes for important occasions?

4 Grease container



Oolachen was a condiment made from fish oil which was poured over dishes at special feasts, called 'potlatches'. Some containers still ooze oil hundreds of years later! This container shows Raven, known in Native communities as a trickster, who could bring blessings or curses.

5 Totem pole



This miniature totem pole was probably made by the Kwakwaka'wakw people of the North West Coast in the early 20th century. The huge bird, Hamats'a, is said to eat humans and will one day swallow the world! Totem poles helped some Native peoples tell stories through images. What would you carve into a totem pole?

6 Mask



This mask shows a hawk-man and was probably worn by a Kwakwaka'wakw chief from the hawk clan. Masks were inherited and showed a person's rank in the clan during a potlatch. Can you think of something people wear today to show how important they are?

7 Shirt and trousers



Dakota warriors who had proven themselves in battle and become tribal leaders, would wear a suit like this for ceremonies. The shirt is decorated with scalplocks (a tuft of hair left on a warrior's shaved scalp) and horsehair, for luck.

8 Moccasins



These beaded children's moccasins were made in the late 19th or early 20th centuries in Montana. Moccasins decorated with beads or porcupine quills are the traditional footwear of Plains and Woodlands peoples. The flexible deer hide protected the wearer's feet but allowed them to move quietly.

9 Rifle

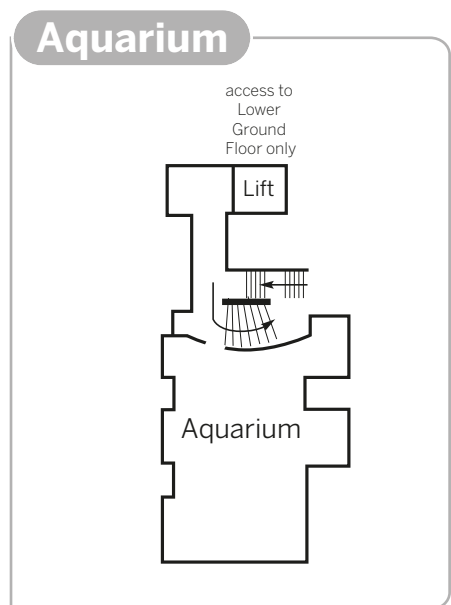
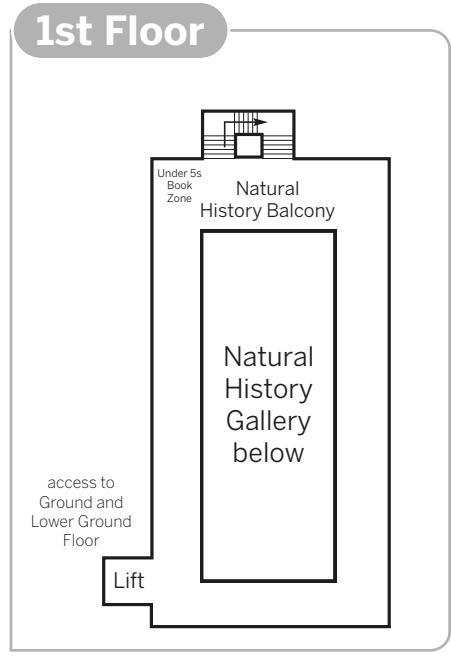
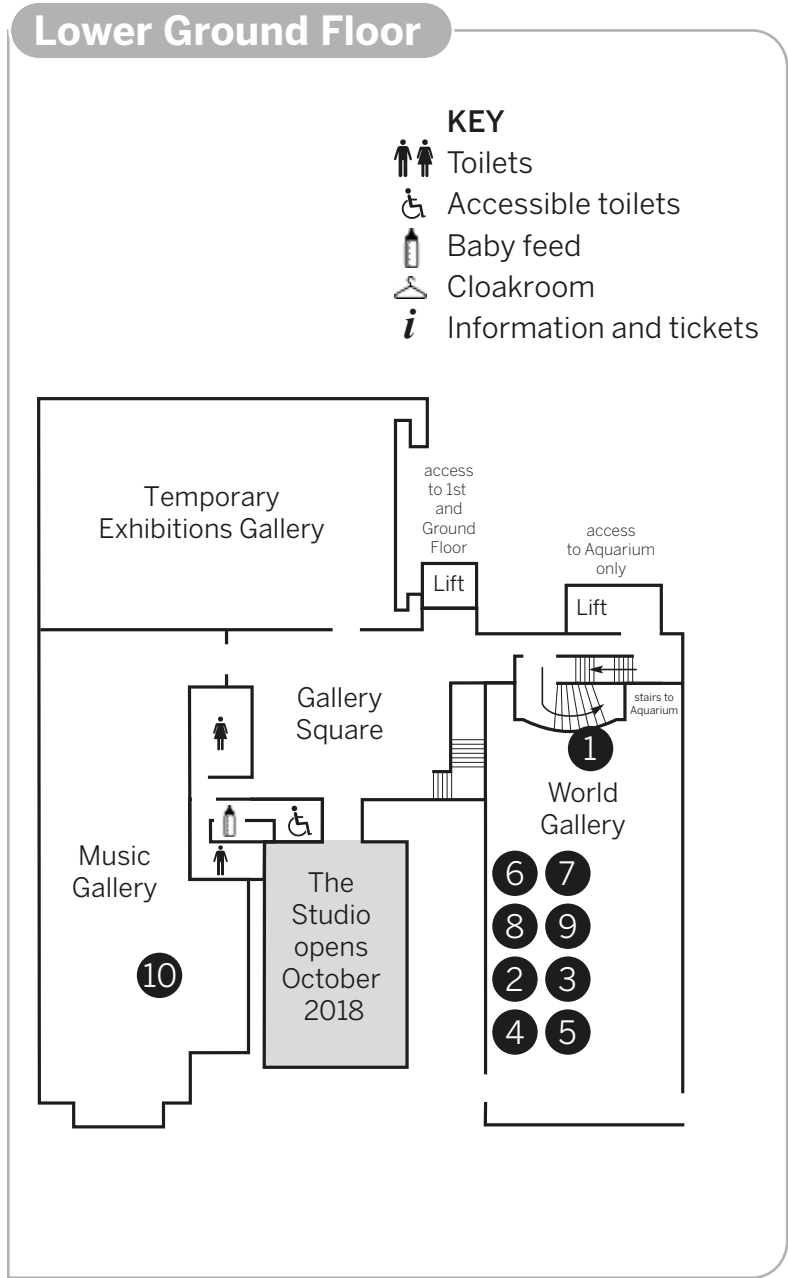
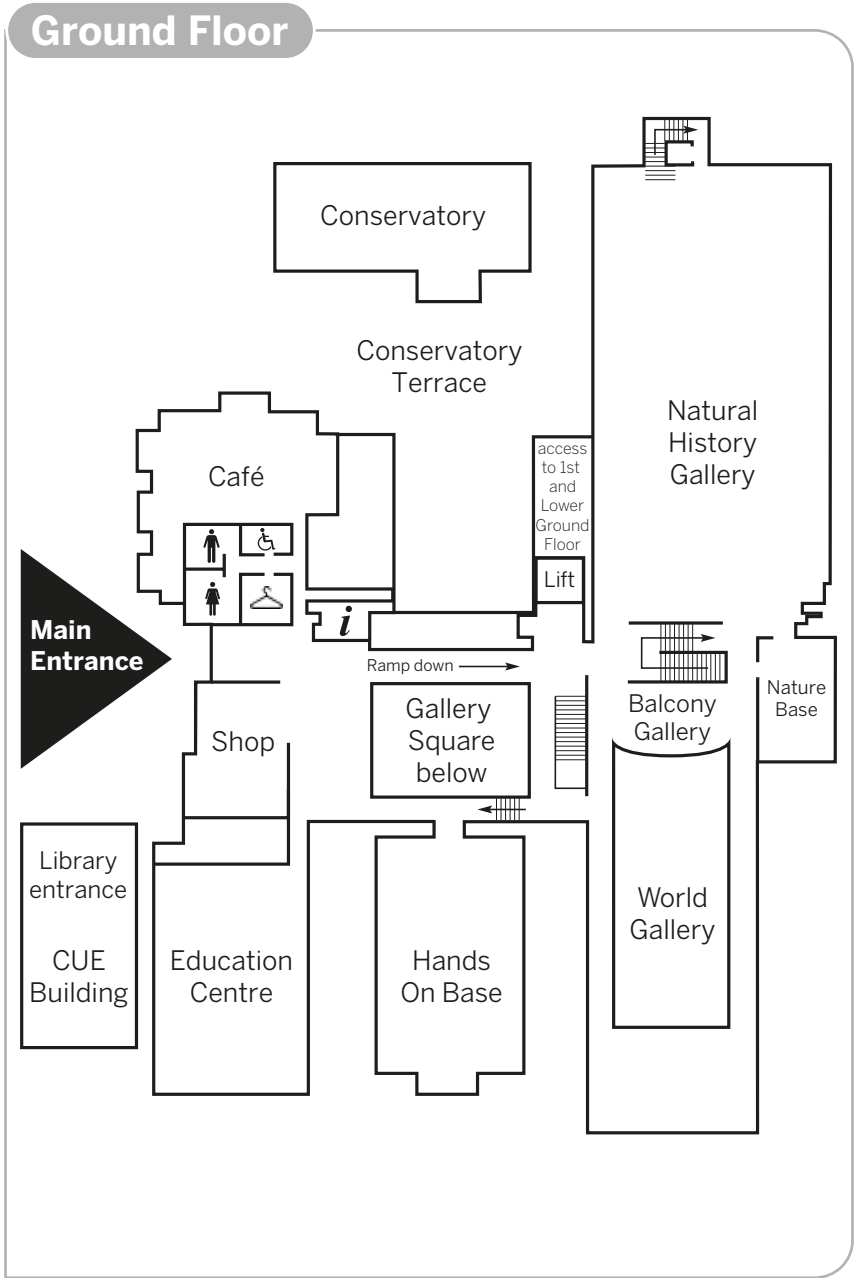


The US army used rifles to defeat Native American groups in the so-called Indian Wars. They were also used to hunt American bison ('buffalo') on the Plains, nearly driving them extinct. By 1890 less than a hundred bison survived, causing Native Americans to starve and forcing them into reservation camps.

10 Drum



Drums were important instruments to the Plains people, providing rhythm for dances, stories and songs about ancestors. As they travelled constantly, their objects had to be light yet strong, like this *chonchaygah* powwow drum. If your family travelled around, what would you take with you?



NORTH AMERICA OBJECTS

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