

CULTURE EXPLORATION KIT Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much does it cost to check out a kit?

A: Zero, free, gratis. 😊

Q: How do I reserve a kit?

A: email jeanne.cmlc@gmail.com, call the center at (541) 754-7225, or drop by between 10:00 - 4:30, weekdays.

Q: Who can check out Culture Exploration Kits?

A: Any group in Linn/Benton County, (including, but not limited to, classroom teachers, book clubs, church groups, scout troops, 4H clubs, and organizers for cultural, educational, or art events)

Q: When is check out/check in?

A: You can pick kits up Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 10:00 am – 5:00pm. **ALL kits must be returned by Friday, by 4:30 pm.** Please allow 15 minutes to go over the contents of the kit at check-in. *(Please be aware the center occasionally closes early due to weather or staff illness. Call ahead if timing is critical for you.)*

Q: How long can I borrow a kit?

A: One week is our standard limit, but they can be kept two weeks if they aren't reserved by anyone else.

Q: How many kits can I check out at a time?

A: One full-sized kit, plus 2 MINI kits (more by special arrangement, depending on availability.)

Q: What ages are the kits appropriate for?

A: Most kits are flexible and can be adapted to a broad age-range, kid through adult. See each kit description for suggested ages. We recommend you check kits out a day before you plan to use them and sort out what's appropriate for your lesson or event.

Q: What teaching materials are included?

A: Each cultural object is paired with an intriguing, photographic *Info Card* of its history, culture, and use. These can be used as teacher “answer sheets”, or incorporated into your lesson or activity. All full-sized kits have a binder with activities, articles or lesson plans, and select, relevant books. Additional books are available, if desired.

Q: Is there a presenter from a culture represented in the kit who can accompany the kit to my class?

A: Not generally, but we may be able to arrange it in some instances. Please contact center director Dee Curwen or project coordinator Jeanne Lusignan to discuss feasibility, cost (if any) and your needs.

Q: Is there a volunteer educator who can bring the kit to my class and lead activities?

A: Not at this time; but we would like to make this service available in the future.

Q: Do you host school field trips to the center? Can you lead kit activities with my class when we visit?

A: Yes. If you want us to lead an activity with a specific kit during your visit, please let us know in advance.

Q: Can kit materials be used for educational displays? (i.e. without someone there leading an activity)?

A: Yes. The cultural objects make intriguing, attention-catching educational displays when paired with the included Info Card. They can be used as mini-museums; we do ask that you display items in a sealed case if leaving them unattended.

Q: Are there any fragile, valuable or rare items included in the kits?

A: A few. Fragile objects are sealed in protective cases, as are tiny, tempting things such as coins, but please supervise the kit's use appropriately. If there are individual things you are uncomfortable with using they may be omitted without detriment to the kit's theme. We do ask that you replace anything lost or destroyed.

Q: I don't need the whole kit, can I just take out a few things out and leave the rest at CMLC?

A: We strive to keep the kits intact. If you only need one or two items, we may have other things at the center you can borrow by arrangement with CMLC director Dee Curwen. Or, you can borrow a kit, and leave the parts you don't need at your home.

Q: Oof – that kit looks heavy! Do you have a wheelie luggage carrier that I can borrow to haul it?

A: Yes, yes we do.