

ACTIVITY SHEET



UNDERSTANDING AND BUILDING OUR WORLD AND OUR STORIES TOGETHER

At the McCord Stewart Museum, we use objects, stories, and shared experiences to help our visitors better understand the world around them, no matter their age or background. With our participatory approach and civic perspective, we prioritize observation, questions, and dialogue in our activities.

WAMPUM: BEADS OF DIPLOMACY

PARTICIPATORY VISIT AT THE MUSEUM

Length: 60 minutes

Target audience: Secondary school – CEGEP – University – Adult – Senior

Educational areas:

- Secondary school: art, history, geography
- CEGEP and university: history, anthropology, Indigenous history, politics, art history

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

The McCord Stewart Museum will present an exhibition developed and co-produced with Paris's musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac on the subject of wampum belts. Wampum are remarkable objects made from shell beads that have traded hands for over two centuries at diplomatic meetings between the Indigenous nations of northeastern North America as well as with Europeans.

This guided tour invites the public to discover an unprecedented number of wampum belts all in one place, objects that still play a fundamental role in some Indigenous nations in northeastern America. This activity lays out the state of current knowledge on the subject while exploring the significance and uses of wampum throughout history. We will also hear from contemporary voices who interpret them and (re)invest them with meaning.

STRATEGIES

Observation – Comparison – Discussion – Reflection - Analysis

ATTITUDES DEVELOPED

Critical thinking – Intercultural perspectives