

Beyond Classrooms Kingston

Welcome to Beyond Classrooms Kingston for Students

Transcript

Hello BCK students, I'm Karla Tynski, Program Coordinator for Beyond Classrooms Kingston. Today I'm really excited to tell you about the Beyond Classrooms Kingston program or BCK as we like to call it. I want to tell you a little bit about BCK, what you will do and what you will learn in this program and why I'm sure you're going to really enjoy it.

BCK is a charity that started here in Kingston in 2014 as an initiative of the Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites. Did you know that there are more than 35 cultural heritage sites like museums and art galleries in our area? BCK started as a way to bring students like you into museums and art galleries in inner city. But the people who started BCK wanted students and teachers to have a chance to do more than just visit a site or gallery. They wanted them to take over that site for a full week and make it their classroom.

BCK is not your regular field trip. BCK gives you a chance to take ownership of your learning and that learning journey starts today. Your teacher will work with you to come up with a big theme or big inquiry question that your class wants to learn more about at the museum or gallery you're going to. You have an important job to do in finding questions to explore each week with your class, so get ready to start brainstorming. What are you most curious about? Thinking about the museum or gallery you're going to be learning from, what would you like to explore and who would you like to meet. Your teacher will help you keep track of these big questions as part of your inquiry process.

You might be wondering why a class would want to spend a full week at a heritage site, or in the case of the remote program, you might be spending several days virtually visiting a site over a couple of months. Why so long? Well, BCK believes it's important to slow down. By taking time to really explore a site, you'll get to know it better. You'll have time to connect your learning at the site to your learning in the classroom. You'll have time to closely observe objects and artifacts and find out the stories and the mysteries behind them. You'll have time to draw and write all that you see, learn and wonder. You'll have time to connect to people and places in our community and appreciate the cultures and stories that make our community unique.

A very important part of BCK is journaling. Have you ever kept a journal before? Why? What did you do with your journal? Everyone who is part of the BCK program has a journal. We journal twice every day when we are out of sight and in our remote program you'll be journaling twice a week. Why do you think we journal at BCK? Most importantly, journaling helps us to slow down. It helps us to remember what we've seen and what we've learned. It's a space to draw and write down our observations. It's a place to ask questions and make predictions. It's a tool to help us share our learning with others.

You might be wondering what journal looks like in the BCK program. You'll get a journal and have time each day to explore the collections at the museum, or if you're doing this program remotely in your classroom, we'll give you a picture of an object. We'll ask you to look closely at that object and then draw and write about it for 20 minutes. That's a long time you might be thinking, but we find it takes at least that long for you really to be able to slow down and closely observe the object. We want you to look

closely, draw a picture of the object, write down your thoughts and questions. There's so much you can learn from closely observing an object.

Objects and artifacts are important parts of museums and galleries. They're like windows into the past. We're going to teach you all about learning from objects in other videos you're going to see in the coming weeks. You'll also get to journal about more than objects in BCK. Another cool part of the BCK program is that you have a chance to meet guest experts who can help answer any questions you have. Of course, you're going to learn about museums and galleries and the interesting collections they have. You'll get to meet curators and people who make museums and galleries places that we can learn in. There are so many interesting people in our community. BCK will help connect the people in our community so that we can learn together.

You might get to meet artists, geologists, even the mayor. Each day on site or each week in the remote program you're going to be able to sit down with a guest expert who can help answer some of your questions about what you're learning at your site. What you learn from them is up to you. Remember you drive the learning in the BC program. So have your questions ready. There's no question that's not worth asking. It's okay if your question leads to another question. That's what inquiry learning is. You may also get a chance to watch a video or a virtual talk before you meet your guest expert. Watch and listen closely so you can figure out what questions you still have for that expert. After you get to meet the expert, you'll have a chance to journal about your experience.

Your journal is a great tool for communicating and sharing your learning. We will take time for you and your classmates to share your journal with each other. We always do a sharing circle after students have had time to explore and sketch and write in their journals. Your teacher will be doing a lot of these sharing circles in the classroom. It's really interesting to hear what other people are curious about and sketching and sometimes you can help answer their questions. Your journal will also become a great way to communicate what you're thinking with your teacher. Your teacher will often read your journal and leave comments and questions for you to answer. I like to leave you comments too whenever possible.

You are just getting started on your BCK journey. Over the next few months, you'll learn how to slow down, look closely, sketch, make observations, think deeply, and ask great questions. Don't worry if you feel you don't have these skills yet. The way to build the skills is through practice, and that's what you're gonna get with BCK. The skills you learn in BCK will help you not only in school, but in all that you do, and your journal will become a valuable tool to you before, during, and after your week, so take really good care of it. Scientists, artists, and researchers keep journals while they're doing their field work. Your journal tool will become a treasure that you will learn from and hold on to.

Welcome to the BCK family. You're among 1,500 students who have spent an immersive learning week learning from one of Kingston's cultural heritage sites. Now, at the beginning of your journey, I want to ask you what you think about learning in museums. What do you hope to learn during your Beyond Classrooms Kingston experience, and how will you share your learning with others? We look forward to having you along for this learning journey.