



# FACT <sup>OR</sup> FICTION

STUDENT STORY CONTEST

Investing in Research and Education  
ROM | Canada's World Museum

**ROM** ROYAL  
ONTARIO  
MUSEUM  
GOVERNORS



## The Event

*Fact or Fiction* is the ROM's signature fundraising event and trademarked game of deduction, deception and discovery. Scorecards in hand, guests visit 15 pairs of curators and try to determine the true history or purpose of mysterious objects from the ROM's vaults. With one curator telling the truth and the other telling a carefully crafted lie—and both curators doing their best to lead everyone astray—guests must decide what is fact and what is fiction. Proceeds from *Fact or Fiction* support ROM research and educational programs.

**The ROM would like to invite students between the ages of nine and 11 to tell us a story about your favourite visit to the Museum.**

Five students will be selected through this Student Story Contest. All five students, accompanied by an adult chaperone, will be invited to attend *Fact or Fiction* on Wednesday, October 2, 2013. The five selected students will also have the opportunity to go on a behind-the-scenes tour with a curator from the area of their choice (redeemable after October 2, 2013).

For more information about *Fact or Fiction* visit [www.rom.on.ca/factorfiction](http://www.rom.on.ca/factorfiction).







## Essay Topic

Tell us a story about your favourite visit to the ROM.

In 350 words or less, write an essay on your most memorable ROM experience and why it was meaningful to you.

Essays may be written with the help of an adult and submitted with an illustration or multi-media supplement.



## The Cause



### **EDUCATION AT THE ROM**

As one of Canada's largest curricular educators, the ROM engages 400,000 students per year with experiential learning activities, virtual and outreach programs.

- The ROM supports four full-time and 35 part-time teachers, who lead curriculum-based programs that reflect the ROM's diverse collections.
- The Museum is committed to making its educational programs accessible to everyone. The ROM's School Visits Bursary program helps students from families with limited resources attend the Museum's weekday education program.
- For the past two years, approximately 28,000 students and teachers in Ontario have received the ROM's travelling School Case Resource Kits for their classrooms.
- The ROM strives to be a leader in extra-curricular Aboriginal education, welcoming hundreds of Aboriginal youth on school visits and offering lessons on First Nations and the development of early Canada.
- The ROM's education department is developing new partnerships for schools, including a virtual visit program, a program that allows ROM teachers to bring objects from the Museum into schools, and an educational web portal that will provide a range of teaching tools and resources for teachers.



## The Cause



Left: Dr. Alexandra Palmer, Senior Curator, Nora E. Vaughan Fashion Costume Curatorship, inspects a stunning Dior couture dress commissioned by the ROM  
Right: David Rudkin, Assistant Curator, Palaeobiology, prepares a fossil plant (Otozomites species)

### RESEARCH AT THE ROM

The ROM is Canada's world museum. With research, conservation and fieldwork activities that span the globe, ROM curatorial teams study artifacts and specimens to further our understanding of nature and culture. The ROM offers unforgettable insights into how the Earth and its cultures have evolved, helping a diverse visitor community understand how the changes we face today will shape the world we'll live in tomorrow.

At any given time, ROM experts are conducting research and fieldwork at the Museum and in more than 30 countries. Projects underway include:

- Dr. Hernán López-Fernández, Curator, Ichthyology, continues to research the evolution and diversity of Neotropical fishes, using the family Cichlidae as a model. Exploring remote areas of South and Central America, he is documenting new species of cichlids to shed light on the processes responsible for the origin of tropical freshwater fish in particular and biodiversity in general.
- David Rudkin, Assistant Curator, Palaeobiology, is studying trilobites (important elements of fossil assemblages in Palaeozoic rocks) of south-central Ontario. This project documents their occurrence and builds with the ultimate aim of publishing an up-to-date reference volume for palaeontologists.
- Dr. Alexandra Palmer, Senior Curator, Textiles, is exploring the historical role and cultural meaning of European and Canadian couture for the makers, merchandisers and consumers in Toronto in the first half of the 20th century. Her research will permit an analysis of the shifts in design and taste in Canada within the first half of the 20th century, an area that has yet to receive any academic attention.
- Dr. Deepali Dewan, Senior Curator, South Asian Art has analyzed the photographic work of Raja Deen Dayal (1844-1905) as a means to gain insight into the dynamics of colonialism, nationalism and modernity during a particularly transformative period in South Asia's history.



## Royal Ontario Museum

The Royal Ontario Museum is Canada's largest field research museum and one of the largest curricular educators in the country. With a collection of six million objects and research and conversation activities that span the globe, the ROM offers extraordinary experiences of science and civilization.

The ROM brings people and ideas together. Exploring the interconnectivity of nature, culture and humanity is the cornerstone of what we do. By examining natural history and world cultures, and finding new and dynamic ways of bringing our found knowledge to the public, the ROM provides an enlightening experience for our members, visitors and partners.

Each year, the ROM welcomes more than one million visitors.

# Application Rules and Instructions

1. The Royal Ontario Museum 2013 *Fact or Fiction* Student Story Contest is open to students between the ages of nine and 11 at the time of entry.
2. Entries must include a typed essay of up to 350 words and a cover sheet including the student's name, age, phone number, e-mail address and date of birth.
3. Entries will be accepted in English or French.
4. Entries must be submitted by e-mail as a standard Microsoft Word (.doc) file or a .PDF file to [annw@rom.on.ca](mailto:annw@rom.on.ca) with "Fact or Fiction Student Story Contest" in the subject line. Accompanying illustrations may be submitted as a JPEG (.jpg) , TIFF (.tiff) or .PDF file.
5. Entries may only be submitted once. Further submissions will not be accepted.
6. Failure to follow these rules may lead to disqualification from the contest.
7. Entries will be judged on a clear description of an experience at the ROM and the explanation of why it was meaningful.
8. Five entries will be chosen by a panel of judges. To ensure an unbiased judging, the judges do not see the author's name during the judging process. Decisions of the judges are final. Only the students whose entries are chosen will be contacted by September 13, 2013.
9. Selected students must be available to attend *Fact or Fiction* on Wednesday, October 2, 2013 accompanied by a chaperone who is over the age of 21.
10. All entries become the property of the Royal Ontario Museum.
11. The deadline for submission is 5 pm EST on August 30, 2013.

For more information contact Keiko Okutsu, Senior Manager, Special Events at 416.586.8064 or [keiko@rom.on.ca](mailto:keiko@rom.on.ca).

15 Unusual Objects  
2 Plausible Descriptions  
1 True Story  
You must decide what is  
fact and what is fiction



**FACT A**

Griffin figure from the late  
6th century BC

**FACT B**

Stone pipe of a zoomorphic  
figure