

## Education, Programs and Outreach

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### Education: School Visits

The ROM is one of Canada's largest co-curricular educators with a School Visits program aimed at enhancing the understanding and appreciation of natural history and world cultures. The program offers lab lessons that are geared to the provincial education curriculum and provides opportunities for students to engage with real natural specimens and historical artifacts. School groups can participate in Gallery Lessons guided by a ROM teacher, or opt for a Self-Guided museum visit.

Each year the ROM welcomes over 100,000 students from thousands of schools. Up to 2,000 students from elementary schools, high schools and post-secondary institutions may be visiting the Museum on a given day.

The School Visits program offers classes geared to students from kindergarten to grade 12. The ROM also offers courses for post-secondary students and Adult ESL (English as a second language).

### Outreach: Travelling Education Kits

The ROM produces and distributes two types of Travelling Education Kits — School Cases and Resource Boxes, both of which bring the ROM to the classroom. These hands-on, object-oriented educational kits are based on the Ministry of Education's common core curriculum and built on the ROM's expertise and collections. Teachers can choose from many cases on individual subjects ranging from arts, history and social studies to science and technology. The kits contain teacher's notes, student activity cards, objects/artifacts and resource material.

School Cases are larger and provide lesson plans and student activities suitable for full-class (25-30 people) participation. The smaller sized Resource Boxes are ideal for small group or independent student inquiry, or they can be used to highlight specific points of a topic in a full class (25-30 people) setting.

## Outreach: Travelling Exhibitions

Travelling exhibitions bring the ROM's collections, research and expertise to those institutions whose communities cannot readily visit the Museum. Travelling exhibitions are circulated to provincial museums, art galleries, libraries, hospitals and other public institutions. A travelling exhibition consists of display cases containing objects as well as contextual information (e.g. images, maps) on panels. Currently, the ROM has ten travelling exhibitions in circulation. They highlight a range of subjects, from science to art or cultural themes from Canada and across the globe.

World Cultures travelling exhibitions consists of the following exhibitions: Arts of China, Canada at Play, Crafts of South Asia, Egypt - Gift of the Nile, Fakes and Forgeries, Iroquois Beadwork

Nature and Science travelling exhibitions consists of the following: Bats of Ontario, Hands On Nature Northern Owls, Seeds in Disguise

With the Travelling Planetarium groups can discover the wonders of the Universe. These inflatable planetariums have a small projector that displays the stars and constellations around us. They are designed for schools, community groups, museums, or libraries. Groups renting the Travelling Planetarium can also have sessions presented by ROM instructors teaching the basics of the night sky and Greek and Roman mythology.

## ROM Programs

ROM programs offer a remarkable variety of lectures, courses, trips, social events that are enjoyable and advance your understanding of world cultures and natural history.

Families and kids can enjoy events and programs all year long, with special programming added during holiday periods (March Break, and ROM for the Holidays). Among the longest running and most popular programs at the ROM are the Saturday Morning Club, Summer Club and March Break Camp, each of which offers many thematic groups to suit each participant's interests.

For those interested in seeing the world with the ROM, the Department of Museum Volunteers (DMV) organizes three types of excursions. ROMtravel offers group tours to destinations around the globe that are accompanied by museum experts for an informative and memorable voyage. The ROMbus program runs day trips to places in Toronto and surrounding areas. And ROMwalks provides over 30 free guided walking tours each year through Toronto neighbourhoods of architectural and historic interest.

## Publications

The ROM publishes and co-publishes a wide variety of books relating to the Museum, its collections and research. ROM books are distributed by University of Toronto Press and are available in bookstores, online and in the ROM Boutique.

ROM Magazine, published four times a year, is included with ROM Memberships and takes readers behind the scenes, revealing objects not on display to Museum visitors, explaining cutting edge techniques, and taking readers along on field adventures with ROM researchers.

The ROM Field Guide series is remarkable for its comprehensive cataloguing of Ontario's flora and fauna. To date five field guides have been published: The ROM Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Ontario, by Erling Holm, Nick Mandrak, Mary Burrige; The ROM Field Guide to Wildflowers of Ontario, by Timothy Dickinson, Deborah Metsger, Jenny Bull, and Richard Dickinson; The ROM Field Guide to Birds of Ontario, by Janice M. Hughes; The ROM Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Ontario, by Ross D. MacCulloch; and the ROM Field Guide to Butterflies of Ontario, by Peter Hall, Colin Jones, Antonia Guidotti and Brad Hubley.

## Online

The ROM's website continues to grow in popularity each year and is adapting to the needs of mobile users. The ROM continues to develop social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogposts and apps. The Museum is steadily growing an online community of ROM enthusiasts.