



CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS  
VISITOR CENTER AND MUSEUM  
EDUCATION ACTIVITIES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2018  
SOUTHWEST COLORADO CANYONS ALLIANCE  
Contact: [swcocanyons@gmail.com](mailto:swcocanyons@gmail.com)  
970-882-5628



IN PLANNING YOUR FIELD TRIP, PLEASE ALLOW ½ HOUR FOR ORIENTATION, AT LEAST 1 HOUR FOR EACH ACTIVITY, AND ½ HOUR FOR LUNCH.

1. Gallery Walk (all ages): tour the Main Exhibit Gallery with *Gallery Walk* (grades 4 and above) activity pages or *Scavenger Hunt* (grades K and above). Our *Adult Guide* pages are appropriate for both activities and provide important background information and dialogue for adult chaperones to use while working with small groups.
2. \* Corn is Life (grades 3 – 6, 7 – 12): learn how the Hopi, as descendents of the Ancestral Puebloans, view corn as an important food source and the center of spiritual activity. After viewing the twenty-minute video, students discuss the connections with what we know about modern Pueblo people and Ancestral Puebloans. Younger students then create a seed pouch to hold the three seeds important to Ancestral Pueblo farmers (bean, corn, squash). Older students learn the long history of corn and how it has influenced the world.
3. \* Why Build on the Hill? (all ages): compare the Dominguez and Escalante Pueblos to understand purposes of two very different, yet contemporary, structures. Students learn about the interpretive process used by archaeologists to answer questions about architectural styles and placement on the landscape.
4. \* Context and Clues (grades 4 and above): use real data from the Escalante Pueblo excavation to understand how archaeologists interpret cultural sites. Teams will make observations and use inferences to draw conclusions about lifestyles at the Pueblo.
5. Rocks and Pots (grades 4 and above): learn the importance of the area's geology in providing tool materials for the Ancestral Puebloans. Students will learn about the geologic column for this area and how each layer in the stratigraphic column influenced the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo People.
6. Pueblo Games / Atlatls and Spears (grades 4 and above): weather and ground surface dependent, learn how traditional Puebloan games prepare young people for life by teaching and reinforcing survival skills. Discover the dynamics of throwing a spear with an atlatl and how Archaic and Basketmaker Ancestral Puebloans used them.
7. Special Exhibit Activity: TBD
8. Visit with Respect Activity (grades 2 and above): understand why we should leave artifacts and other aspects of cultural sites in place and alternatives to taking or moving

those artifacts. Student activities may include an art activity to recreate Ancestral Pueblo pottery sherds.

9. \* Nature's Harvest (all ages): learn how the Ancestral Puebloans utilized plants in their landscape. Students discover indigenous plants on a half-mile walk to Escalante Pueblo. The AHC Educator will share replicas of artifacts to demonstrate how these plants were used. This activity is often combined with Why Build on the Hill? or Context and Clues.
10. Plant Jeopardy (grades 4 and above) or Plant-Tac-Toe (grades 1 and above): learn traditional plant uses then test your knowledge with one of the games. Students will use a spreadsheet to take notes on plant uses. Plant Jeopardy tests their knowledge of all 24 plants represented while Plant-Tac-Toe allows them to understand six plants at a time.
11. Decisions, Decisions (grades 6 and above): Students work with real-life scenarios of multiple-use in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Groups representing modern Puebloans, environmental groups, and geologists work together to create a plan and present it to the Monument Manager. This lesson is presented in *Getting to Know Canyons of the Ancients National Monument*, available at our museum shop operated by our non-profit partner Canyonlands Natural History Association.
12. Weaving Traditions (grades 4 and above): Students will learn a variety of weaving techniques used in antiquity and today. Each student will produce a piece of cordage to take with them.
13. Dragonflies (grades 2 and above): Students will hear the Zuni story of *Dragonfly's Tale* and make their own dragonfly using corn husks.

**SPEAK TO A MUSEUM EDUCATOR IN ADVANCE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAN AN ACTIVITY ON A TOPIC NOT REPRESENTED IN THIS LIST.**

\* Original lesson plan in *Escalante Pueblo Curriculum*.