**K-12 Educational Programs: Middle School**

Wadsworth Longfellow House Tour

Available April – December

Built in 1785-86 by Peleg and Elizabeth Wadsworth, the Wadsworth-Longfellow House is best known today as the childhood home of the celebrated American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Here in the midst of the bustling maritime city of Portland, Longfellow grew to adulthood and began the writing career that would bring him international renown by the middle of the nineteenth century.

Students are invited to explore the home on a guided tour and examine the connections between Longfellow’s childhood, family life and city life in the mid-nineteenth century, and the poetry Longfellow created.

Maine Learning Results:
Grade Level: 6-8; Content Area: Social Studies: HISTORY (E1a, E1b, E2c)

Common Core State Standards:
Anchor Standards: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR READING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7); COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2)
Grade 6: SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.1.c, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.1.d)
Grade 7: SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1.c)
Grade 8: SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.1.c)

MHS Gallery Programs

Available during the school year, September-May

For each changing exhibit in our museum gallery, MHS educators develop and facilitate interactive activities and explorations of the primary source documents, objects, and artworks that are on display. The focus and theme of each exhibit varies, but all exhibits relate to Maine studies and Maine history. Call (207) 774-1822 ext. 214 for details about the current exhibit program.


This exhibit uses the Wadsworth-Longfellow House as a prism to explore how Portland has grown and changed over more than 230 years. The exhibition features family belongings that tell the personal and yet universal story of how people live in their homes—including ways of heating, cooking, and plumbing—and how those functions evolved within Portland. The stories of the Wadsworth and Longfellow families and an ever-changing cast of neighbors on their block—families, hotels, businesses, tenements, etc.—help explain how Portland has become the beloved, livable city we know today.
Maine Learning Results:
Grade Level: 6-8; Content Area: Social Studies: HISTORY (A1e, A1h, A1k, A2a, D2b, E1a, E1b, E2c)

Common Core State Standards:
Anchor Standards: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR READING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.10); COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR WRITING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.2, CCSS ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.7, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.8, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.9); COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2)
Grade 6: READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.7); SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.1c, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.1d)
Grade 7: READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.7, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.9); SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1c)
Grade 8: READING INFORMATION TEXT (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.7, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.9); SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.1c)

Longfellow Trail

Available during the school year, May — October

Discover the city that Longfellow knew on this guided expedition through downtown Portland. Using maps and old photographs copied from the archives of the Maine Historical Society, and Longfellow's poems about his native city, students will search for the buildings and streets that existed in the nineteenth–century city familiar to the poet.

In the process students will learn about Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, life in the nineteenth century, and the layers of the past that still exist in Portland's changing urban landscape.

Maine Learning Results:
Grade Level: 6-8; Content Area: Social Studies: HISTORY (D1a, D1d, D2b, E1b, E2c)

Common Core State Standards:
Anchor Standards: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR READING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7); COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS
ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2)
Grade 6: SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.1.c, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.1.d)
Grade 7: SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1.c)
Grade 8: SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.8.1.c)

Classroom Visits

An Introduction to Community History

Available year round
Free of charge

A Maine Historical Society educator travels to your school to introduce teachers and/or students to the Maine Memory Network, our statewide digital museum. Sessions include a hands–on demonstration of the website and discussion of opportunities for your students to explore the history of your community.

These sessions last about 45 minutes and should be held in a computer lab or classroom with Internet access. We are flexible and can schedule demonstrations during class periods, department meetings, in–service days or after school.

Maine Learning Results:
Grade Level: 6-8; Content Area: Social Studies: HISTORY (A1a, A1b, A1c, A1d, A1e, A1f, A1g, A1h, A1k, A1l, A3, E1a, E1b, E1d, E2a, E2b, E2c)

Common Core State Standards:
Anchor Standards: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR READING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7); COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR WRITING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.7, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.8); COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR SPEAKING AND LISTENING (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.5); COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR LANGUAGE (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.2)
Longfellow, Poetry & Place

Available throughout the school year
$60 per session. Additional sessions may be added to the visit for $45.

A Maine Historical Society educator brings this outreach program to your classroom. In this hour and a half long session, students explore the life and poetry of the renowned nineteenth-century poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Students discuss the influences of Maine, history, and place on Longfellow's poetry during an interactive slide show presentation. In the poetry workshop that follows students have the opportunity to write their own place-based poems. Available year round to schools within 60 miles of Portland.

Maine Learning Results:
Grade Level: 6-8; Content Area: Social Studies: HISTORY (D2b, E1a, E1b, E1d, E2a, E2b, E2c); Content Area: ENGLISH (A2a, A2b, A2c, A2d, A2e, A2f, A2g, B1a, B1b, B1c, B1d, B1e, B1f)

Common Core State Standards:

Grade 7: READING LITERATURE (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.6); LANGUAGE (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.3)

Grade 8: READING LITERATURE (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.6); LANGUAGE (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.3)


Don’t see what you’re looking for? Do you have an idea or special request for a program? Contact the Manager of School and Interpretive Programs with your questions and inquiries at 207-774-1822 ext. 214, email kneumann@mainehistory.org.