

Pre-visit Lessons and Activities: The Longfellow Trail

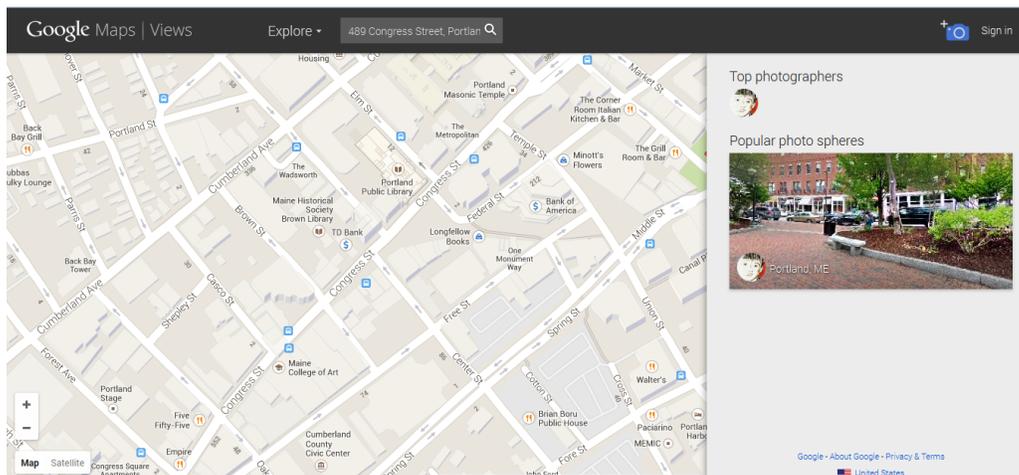
These pre-visit lessons and activities are suggested exercises to prepare your students for their walking tour on the Longfellow Trail. Each lesson/activity can easily be adapted to meet the needs of students of all grade levels and to fit into your classroom schedule whether you're looking for a short introduction to or an in depth exploration of the content of the tour.

Visit Longfellow Online (<http://www.hwlongfellow.org/>): This Maine Historical Society website examines not only Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's life and work, but also his homes (including the Wadsworth-Longfellow House) and the story of his family. The website includes a searchable database of Longfellow's poems, lesson plans for teachers, a filmography, and more. Whether you have one hour or one or week to prepare prior to your visit, it is a great resource for teachers and/or students to learn a little background on the story Longfellow and his family.



Preview the Trail/Create a Longfellow Trail Map: Using printed maps of Portland, brochures, Google Maps, and other appropriate resources, instruct students to preview the Longfellow Trail and (time permitting) create their own map of the trail route. The map itself could be traditional, digital, pop-up, a poster, etc. and could even include photographs or illustrations. Students could create maps individually, in small groups, or as a class.

The Longfellow Trail Route: The trail route starts in front of the **Wadsworth-Longfellow House and Maine Historical Society at 489 Congress Street**. The trail continues down **Congress Street** towards **Monument Square** stopping at the **First Parish Church**. The trail then continues to and past **City Hall**, crossing **Congress Street** at the **fire station** and entering **Lincoln Park**; from here the **Observatory** is visible. The trail continues through **Lincoln Park** towards the **Court House** taking a **right onto Federal Street**, past the "bubbler". The trail then turns **left down Exchange Street**, crossing **Federal Street** and continuing down **Exchange** to **Post Office Square**. From **Post Office Square**, the trail takes a **right onto Middle Street**, passing **Canal Bank** on the left and **bearing right around the Nickelodeon** movie theater to cross **Temple Street** at the brick cross walk. Finally, the trail heads up the pedestrian street into **Monument Square** and back to **Maine Historical Society**.



Create a Longfellow Trail Album on Maine Memory Network

(http://www.mainememory.net/help/help_albumfront.shtml): Maine Memory Network is a statewide digital museum that provides unprecedented online access to an ever-growing collection of more than 45,000 primary sources contributed by over 270 organizations throughout Maine. MMN's Album Tool allows students to collect and annotate favorite items from MMN into one place. Students can make as many albums as they want and the albums are a great way to organize and go back to favorite images. Instruct students to make an album that tells the story of the neighborhood Longfellow grew up in, the city of Portland, or about something specific they saw or discussed on the trail (sculptures, architecture, 1866 fire etc.). This activity is equally appropriate as a pre-visit lesson to orient students to Portland and the trail and/or as a post-visit lesson to review what students have learned.

A Maine Historical Society Website

Great fire of Portland 1866

Contributed by [Maine Historical Society](#)

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This map shows the location (in red) of the damage of the Great fire of Portland, 1866. This fire was caused by fireworks during the celebration of July 4th.

To ensure that Portland would never again experience a tragedy like the Great Fire, Portland installed a fire alarm signal system in 1867. The mayor also signed a contract in 1868 to pipe in water from Sebago Lake in order to add to the city's available water supply.

My Album Tools

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My Favorite Things on Maine Memory Network

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Longfellow's Poetry: Review with students some of Longfellow's poetry, specifically "My Lost Youth", the poem in which he reminisces about the Portland of his childhood; parts of this poem are highlighted on the Longfellow Trail tour and it is helpful if students are familiar with the poem prior to their visit. If time allows, instruct students to research the history behind and writing of "My Lost Youth" and/or create artwork inspired by the poem. All of Longfellow's poetry can be found on the searchable poetry database on Longfellow Online at http://www.hwlongfellow.org/poems_front.php.

A Maine Historical Society Website

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

A Maine Historical Society Website

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My Lost Youth

Often I think of the beautiful town
That is seated by the sea;
Often in thought go up and down
The pleasant streets of that dear old town,
And my youth comes back to me.
The pleasant streets of that dear old town,
And my youth comes back to me.
And a verse of a Lapland song
Is haunting my memory still:
"A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts."
I can see the shadowy lines of its trees,
And catch, in sudden gleams,
The sheen of the far-surrounding seas,
And islands that were the Hersperides
Of all my boyish dreams.
And the burden of that old song,
It murmurs and whispers still:
"A boy's will is the wind's will,
And the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts."
I remember the black wharves and the slips,
And the sea-birds tossing free,

Birds of Passage 1858

- Flight the First
 - [Birds of Passage](#)
 - [Prometheus, or the Poet's Forethought](#)
 - [Eolmethus, or the Poet's Afterthought](#)
 - [The Ladder of St. Augustine](#)
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