

## EDUCATIONAL TRUNKS Available in NW Montana



### Art & Indian Education

**Traveling Medicine Show** – (Grades K-12) – *from the Hockaday Museum of Art, Cost: \$150 for a full day – exhibit set up, presentations, art projects with 2-3 class sized groups. Cost is \$275 for a Blackfeet artist to come also. (Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268 or [education@hockadaymuseum.org](mailto:education@hockadaymuseum.org))* – First Nation artwork from the Northern Plains in three trunks: Trunk One: *Ancient Case* -- Bow and arrow, shield, parfleche etc. from long ago; Trunk Two: *Traditional Case* -- Ceremonial and everyday clothing, moccasins, dolls, cradle board, drum and pipe, decorative beadwork, etc.; Trunk Three: *Contemporary Case* -- Current art, artists, and traditions.



**From Plains To Plateau: Artistic Traditions of Northwest Montana Tribes**–(Grades K-12) – *free for Hockaday Museum of Art Member Schools, \$25 for others (Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268 or [education@hockadaymuseum.org](mailto:education@hockadaymuseum.org))* Blackfeet and other artists from the Northern Plains share their culture through traditional, historic, and contemporary art. Items in this trunk include both one and two piece moccasins, jewelry, a Blackfeet doll, games, parfleche, CD's, photographs, art prints, posters, a touch and feel box of raw material samples, and a teacher's trunk guide.

**Home on the Plains: Artistry of Montana Indian Tribes**–(Grades K-12) – *free for Hockaday Museum of Art Member Schools, \$25 for others (Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268 or [education@hockadaymuseum.org](mailto:education@hockadaymuseum.org))* The focus of this trunk is the culture and art associated with historical home life of Plains Indian Tribes. Blackfeet tipi prints, a model lodge, an envelope parfleche, games, books, art prints, paintings, and raw material samples fill this trunk. The accompanying trunk guide includes artist biographies, reference materials, and an assortment of art projects.

**Indian Education for All, Youth Book Club Trunk, Gift of the Bitterroot and Crown of the Continent Ecosystem.** - *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office at 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com))* Flathead Audubon, Flathead National Forest and the Northwest Montana Educational Cooperative teamed up to develop this trunk. Includes a class set of the book *Gift of the Bitterroot*, class set of study chapters from the *Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Profile*, a notebook of activities on ways to use the books in the classroom and reference books. Linked to Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians. Appropriate from Elementary to Middle School.

**Indian Education for All Book Club Trunks** – *free from NW Montana Educational Cooperative (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office at 406/752-3302, <http://www.nwmteducationalcoop.org>)*

## Birds

**Bird ID and Costume Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office at 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) What's a great way to learn about birds? By becoming one of course! This trunk provides a costume to dress your students up with all the major bird adaptations to turn them into "real" birds of a feather! Appropriate from Pre-school to Middle School. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>



What's a great way to learn about birds? By becoming one of course! This trunk provides a costume to dress your students up with all the major bird adaptations to turn them into "real" birds of a feather! Appropriate from Pre-school to Middle School. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

**Common Birds of the Flathead Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office at 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - Students will learn about the most visible birds around Flathead Valley. Trunk includes preserved bird specimens, slides, CD, pictures and worksheets! Appropriate from Elementary to High School. Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

**Field Studies Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - There are two trunks of materials for the

Studies: A classroom set of 18 *Peterson Bird Guides* and 10 binoculars for 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade and above. For younger students (Pre-school to 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade) there is also a classroom set of 10 *Montana Birds* field guides and 10 smaller-sized binoculars. The second set can also be used by older students. Use of these trunks can help your students gain basic birding skills including use and care of binoculars and bird identification techniques! <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

**The Changing Neighborhood Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - Use felt figures to relay the story of environmental change and the effects of change on native species. Appropriate from Pre-school to Primary Elementary School. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

**Maggie the Magpie Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - Have your students take Maggie the Magpie (a puppet) home and journal about her activities! This is a great one for getting those shy birds in your class to fledge! Appropriate for Elementary school. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

**Cavity Nesters Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - Tell the wonderful story of life in dead trees! Students will explore the adaptations and life cycles of native birds that use dead trees for food and shelter. Trunk includes puppets, activity pages, preserved bird specimens, real cavity nests and much, much more! Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

**Hummingbird Trunk** – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com)) - Did you know a hummingbird only weighs as much as a penny? Learn all about this lightweight of the bird world with the Hummingbird Trunk! Trunk includes a 30 minute narrative with visual aids, puppets and puppet show scripts, specimens, research units on our native hummingbirds and a "humdinger" of a resource notebook. Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

**Owls** – (Grades K-5) *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com))*. Currently under construction. Will be available beginning December 2014. Includes owl specimens, dissected pellets, tools to dissect your own pellets (you'll need to supply the pellets themselves), a bird costume, funnels to demonstrate asymmetrical hearing, books and a teacher guide with lesson plan ideas.

**Snowy Owls Who Are They? Book and Trunk** – *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com))*. Audubon and the Owl Research Institute have joined together to develop this trunk based on the book written by Ansley Watson Ford and Denver Holt. Appropriate from Elementary to Middle School.

**Songbird Kit** – (Grades K-8) – *free from Glacier National Park (Contact Laura Law, Education Specialist, 406/888-5837 or [laura\\_law@nps.gov](mailto:laura_law@nps.gov))* This dynamic trunk has activities geared for the classroom as well as outdoors relating to songbirds and migration. Resource materials, activities, videos, a felt storyboard, posters, recorded bird songs, and puppets all help students learn more about the natural history of several Montana songbirds.

### **Climate Change**

**Climate Change Trunk** – (Grades 6-8) – *free from Glacier National Park (Contact Laura Law, Education Specialist, 406/888-5837 or [laura\\_law@nps.gov](mailto:laura_law@nps.gov))* A complete set of materials to conduct the 2-week unit from Facing the Future: “Climate Change: Connections and Solutions.” Videos, web links, books, and hands-on interactive games help students understand the basics behind the science of climate change as well as the social and economic implications.

### **Crown of the Continent**

**Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Trunk** – *developed by the Glacier Institute (call the Main Office, 755-1211)* – Did you know much of NW Montana falls within the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem? Borrow this trunk to learn more about the inter-connections throughout this ecosystem.

### **Fire & Fire Ecology**

**FireWorks** – (Grades K-12) – *2 trunks locally: free from Glacier National Park (Contact Laura Law, Education Specialist, 406/888-3857 or [laura\\_law@nps.gov](mailto:laura_law@nps.gov)) and free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor's Office 406/758-5204 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us))* Interactive, hands-on material to study the forces that cause change in forests, particularly wildland fire. Activities and lessons in the curriculum are tied to a collection of teaching tools to help students learn about fire ecology in three kinds of forests found in the northern Rocky Mountains. Curriculum linked to national educational standards. For more information and to download the curriculum visit the following web site:

<http://www.firelab.org/con-ed>

### **Forestry**

**From the Tree 2 You!** – *developed by Women in Timber (Contact: Holly McKenzie, 406-892-4141, [hmckenzie@centurytel.net](mailto:hmckenzie@centurytel.net))* Collection of reference materials, suggested activities and hands-on tools for learning about forests, forest products and tree species.

**Forest Stewardship Education Trunk**—(Grades 5-12)—*free from Swan Ecosystem Center (406 754-3137, or [jill@swanecosystemcenter.org](mailto:jill@swanecosystemcenter.org)) or for a fee of \$25/2 weeks or \$35/3 weeks from Montana Natural History*

*Center, 406 754-3137.* This trunk guides students through a variable plot timber cruise with the use of professional foresters' tools. The cruise not only surveys the timber on a particular piece of land but also the shrubs and plants present and wildlife use on the land.

Besides a teachers' guide and a set of lesson plans, the trunk includes six completely outfitted loggers' vests, reference materials, a CD-Rom called Montana Forests Forever, created by the Montana Logging Association, six stereoscopes for reading aerial photographs and a set of six plant and tree identification guides. The complete curriculum will enable students to write a management plan for the property surveyed. However, there are many components of the trunk that can be used without completing the curriculum. One of the most popular pieces is a tree's biography and another is using tree cookies to see the relationship between circumference and diameter.

### **History**

***Land of Many Stories*** – (Grades 4) - free from Glacier National Park (Contact Laura Law, Education Specialist, 406/888-5837 or [laura\\_law@nps.gov](mailto:laura_law@nps.gov)) This trunk was created by the Montana Historical Society as part of Glacier's Centennial Commemoration. It is geared toward 4<sup>th</sup> grade but many of the lessons can be used for higher grades.

Topics include Montana's Indian Tribes, the railroad and building of the park chalets, early tourism and marketing, how artists influenced information and knowledge about the park, and careers and jobs that people have had in Glacier. There are two copies of the trunk. One is available from West Glacier and the other is available from the Montana Historical Society in Helena. The lessons for the trunk are on-line at the museum's website at <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/footlocker/default.asp>.

***Meet the Conrads*** – (Grade 2-6) - free from Conrad Mansion (Contact Conrad Mansion Museum at 755-2166, [info@conradmansion.com](mailto:info@conradmansion.com)) The Conrad Mansion Museum has created this traveling trunk for teachers to bring into the classroom to either enhance a planned field trip to the Mansion or to give dimension to an existing lesson. The trunk is filled with primary artifacts (real when possible, reproductions when necessary). These artifacts include clothing, writing tools, kitchen utensils, photos and maps. The trunk includes a teacher's guide to help you direct activities and bring depth to the materials in the trunk. The trunk is designed to be self-contained and is meant for students in 2nd grade. It can, however, be adapted for use by older students and adults.

### **Plants**

***Glacier's Plant Invaders*** – (Grades 3-12) - free from Glacier National Park (Contact Laura Law, Education Specialist, 406/888-5837 or [laura\\_law@nps.gov](mailto:laura_law@nps.gov)) Materials in this trunk were put together for upper elementary school field trips to learn about science and one way to collect data on non-native, invasive plants in Glacier National Park. They have been expanded to now include lesson plans for middle and high schoolers. Students learn about 4 species – Spotted knapweed, St. Johnswort, Houndstongue, and Oxeye daisies. There are sample data sheets, identification guides, a power point, and background information about doing science and why these plants are not wanted here.

### **Water**

***Aquatic Invasive Species Trunk***- (Grades 9-12) – free from Flathead Basin Commission, (Contact: Heidi Sedivy at 883-1341, [heidi@flatheadlakers.org](mailto:heidi@flatheadlakers.org)) This High School Trunk includes activities geared at raising AIS awareness in Montana while meeting National Teaching Standards in multiple subjects. Contents include: 13 Aquatic Invasive Species specimens and posters; activities for grades 9 – 12 with teacher guide, including a design-your-own dichotomous key; and "Don't Move a Mussel" DVD.

**Becoming Watershed Citizens-** (Grades K-12) – *free from Flathead Lakers, (Contact: Heidi Sedivy at 883-1341, [heidi@flatheadlakers.org](mailto:heidi@flatheadlakers.org))* The Flathead Lakers developed Becoming Watershed Citizens, a watershed education program for elementary students to increase their understanding of the physical, biological, historical and social components of the Flathead Watershed and their interconnections. The program includes classroom lessons and activities and is best when paired with a field trip to the Flathead Biological Station. The Flathead Watershed trunk contains maps and information unique to the Flathead Watershed. These materials include a teacher’s addition with discussion prompts, a large hand-painted floor map, wooden character figures and mounted photographs used as props for telling the Wild River Journey: Clark Fork – Pend Oreille Watershed Story.

**Rolling Rivers Trailer** – (Grades 3-12) – *free from Flathead County Conservation District (Contact Assistant Conservationist Kari Musgrove, 406/752-4220 [karim@flathead.org](mailto:karim@flathead.org))* – Several types of river systems can be modeled using this large sandbox, plastic houses, vegetation, and, of course, water! Through this interactive display students learn how waterways and citizens can coexist. Kari or another certified trainer will accompany the trailer and lead the activity.

**The Power of Water** – (Grades PreK to 8) - *free from the US Bureau of Reclamation, Hungry Horse Dam (Contact Prudence Crampton, 406/387-5241 [pcrampton@usbr.gov](mailto:pcrampton@usbr.gov))* - Older students can create their own hydro-electric generator or debate issues related to the management of dams. Younger students can explore water flow through hands on water toys and experiments as well as learning the basics of electrical generation through props and a storybook. Activities are linked to Montana State Performance Standards. This trunk has components to be used with Pre School to 2nd grade or grades 3 to 8. Each age level includes a binder full of further lesson ideas. Please specify which age level(s) you wish to borrow in your request. Laurie can also be contacted to arrange school tours based from the Hungry Horse Dam Visitor Center or school visits from a Reclamation Guide or engineer.

**Wetland and Riparian Studies Trunk** - (Grades 4-8) – *free from Flathead Audubon Society (Contact the NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or [auduboneducator@gmail.com](mailto:auduboneducator@gmail.com) or Flathead Conservation District Outreach Coordinator Kari Musgrove at 406/752-4220 or [karim@flathead.org](mailto:karim@flathead.org))* Developed in partnership with Flathead Audubon and the Flathead Conservation District for educating on the importance of wetland and riparian areas for protecting or improving water quality from nonpoint source pollution, and their importance for wildlife and habitat. Trunk contains a variety of hands-on activities that are correlated to National Science Education Standards for K-12; includes a developed unit of study, with recommended activities.

## Wildlands

**Wilderness and Land Ethic Box and Curriculum** – (Grades K-8) – *free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us))* – Interactive resource to promote awareness and appreciation of the cultural, environmental and experimental values of our natural resources. Activities and lessons in the curriculum are tied to a collection of teaching tools including animal skulls and skins, puppets, books, video and audio tapes, maps and more. For more information and to download the curriculum visit the following website: <http://www.wilderness.net>

## Wildlife

**Amphibian and Reptile Trunk** – (Grades K-6) – *free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us))* – Check out this trunk to discover what makes

amphibians and reptiles so special. Videos, books, resource guides and a notebook full of suggested classroom activities make learning about the adaptations, conservation, and identification of Montana species fun! Trunk includes six junior size nets.

**Aquatic Box, Cat Box, Elk Trunk, Furbearer Box, & Canine/Ungulate Box** – free from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (call the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Kalispell Office 406/752-5501) – Five trunks circulate locally and contain skulls, pelts, brochures, books and other materials. For a list of trunks found in MT, ID, WA, OR see: <http://fwp.mt.gov/education/teachers/trunks/>



**Bat Box** – (Grades K-6) – free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758- 5204 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us)) “Sleep all Day, Play all Night. What kids wouldn’t like bats?”— from poster in the trunk. Trunk contains bat puppets, books, posters and lots more to explore the life and history of bats.

**Bear Trunk** – (Grades K-12) – free from Glacier National Park (Contact Laura Law, Education Specialist, 406/ 888-5837 or [laura\\_law@nps.gov](mailto:laura_law@nps.gov)) Background material, research guides, and props to facilitate discussions about bears of the world, their habitats, and food sources. Emphasis is on black and grizzly bears including how

to tell them apart and how to hike/camp safely in bear country. Activity guide and sample lesson plan included. With additional materials available on the web, upper grades can benefit from information regarding scientific method and results of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem DNA research study to determine population size as well as information about listing of the grizzly bear as an endangered species.

**Loon Trunk** – (Grades pre-K-12) – free from Montana Loon Society (or call the Flathead National Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us)) – Meet “Lottie” the Loon, who plays a true loon wail, learn how to identify a loon by dressing up a student, participate in games to learn how pollution is harmful to loons through the process of bioaccumulation; examine topographic maps to determine what lakes would make a good territory for a pair of nesting loons. This box contains a wealth of fun, hands-on items including a loon egg replica, puppets, scripts, videos, posters and much more to learn about Montana Loons. A three-ring notebook is full of lesson and activity ideas that meet Montana Content and Performance Standards for science, math, social studies, art, and language arts.

**Mosquito Trunk** – (Elementary to adult) -- free from Flathead County Mosquito District (call Bruce Gunderson, 406/751-8145 or [bgunderson@flathead.mt.gov](mailto:bgunderson@flathead.mt.gov)) — Want to learn about mosquitos and how Flathead County controls the flying arthropods? Check out the mosquito trunk. The box contains informational PowerPoint slide shows, jeopardy game on PowerPoint, word search, and sample dipping cup, coloring sheets, costumes and puppets that display the different stages of the mosquito life cycle and several copies of the book, The Summer the Town Bit Back.

**Sally Snag** – (Pre-K & Primary Grades) – free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us)) Bring a “dead” tree into your classroom, with Sally Snag! Sally shows kids how wildlife benefits from dead trees. Sally is easily set up with a fabric piece, tent poles, and hoola-hoops. Sally comes in a suitcase with an assortment of wildlife puppets and script. Sally can also become Sammy Snag depending on who is “playing the snag”.

**Skulls Kit** – (Grades 3-12) --- Free from Glacier National Park (Contact Laura Law, Education Specialist, 406/888-5837 or [laura\\_law@nps.gov](mailto:laura_law@nps.gov)) Are you interested in animal predator/prey relationships? Maybe you are even interested in learning about the differences between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores through their teeth. Check out this trunk if you or your class are interested in learning more about the identification of several animals through looking at their bone structure. This trunk comes with several excellent lesson plans for all ages, however, it is best suited for 3rd-12th graders.

**Wolf Trunk** – (Grades K-12) – free from Glacier National Park (Contact Laura Law, Education Specialist, 406/888-5837 or [laura\\_law@nps.gov](mailto:laura_law@nps.gov)) and free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor's Office 406/758-5204 or [twenum@fs.fed.us](mailto:twenum@fs.fed.us)) Includes pelts, skulls, tapes of wolf howls, videos, track casts and activity guide. Great for learning about predator/prey relationships and food chains. Includes background materials for older students to debate controversial management strategies.

---

*Other educational trunks may be obtained (often for a fee plus shipping) from organizations outside the Flathead Valley. See these websites for more information:*

**The Montana Watercourse at Montana State University** – Scholarships available for free rentals. Please inquire. Otherwise trunks are \$25 per rental or \$10 if you pick them up in Bozeman. Seven trunks: Ground Water Flow Model; Liquid History Treasure; Stream Ecology; Pond; Enviroscope Model; Water Literature; River of Words. [www.mtwatercourse.org/Educators/trunks.htm](http://www.mtwatercourse.org/Educators/trunks.htm)

**Museum of the Rockies, Traveling Teaching Trunks** – (Grades K-8) – \$35 plus shipping. Call 406/994-5282. Archaeology, Dinosaur, Homesteading, Paper-making, Planets, Songbird, Space Odyssey, Telescope, Traditional Native American Games. <http://www.museumoftherockies.org/>

**Montana Historical Society** – (Grades K-8) – 20 hands-on history footlockers! To order, call the Society's Education Office at 406/444-4794 or complete an on-line reservation form. Please book early.– Footlockers contain reproduction artifacts, photographs, cassette tapes or videos, clothing, and tools related to the topic. User Guides contain: historical narratives; a bibliography; compliance with Montana Standards for Social Studies; and lessons. <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/education/footlocker/default.asp>

**Montana Natural History Center, Nature Discovery Traveling Trunks (Msla.)** – Over 20 available trunks! Trunks can be rented for two (2) weeks for \$35 or three (3) weeks for \$45. Call 406. 327.0405 to reserve a trunk. <http://www.montanaturalist.org/teacher-resources/traveling-trunks/>

**Guide to Educational Trunks in the Northern Rockies (2001).** This list can be searched by city and state. <http://www.thenaturecenter.org/resources/trunkguide>