

First Nations Cultural Fieldtrips

The **Aboriginal Nations Education Division** offers different types of cultural fieldtrips to all SD#61 schools.

TO EXPERIENCE ORAL TRADITIONS IN ACTION WE ASK THAT TEACHERS AND STUDENTS NOT TAKE NOTES

The facilitator of these walks is Mark Albany, Aboriginal Nations School Counselor and a member of the Songhees Nation, whose traditional territory encompasses all of Greater Victoria and some of the outlying areas. The walks cover the traditional territories of the Esquimalt and Songhees people and the traditional use of the land for thousands of years.



⊕ **The “Around Victoria” Tour:**

This tour takes a complete morning and visits a number of sites.

Students are shown where the local nations would have gathered foods, hunted, and where the main settlements and summer camps were located. Students will also see where camas fields and some of the burial grounds are located and how the local nations integrated into the Settlers' lives through trade and work.

NOTE: THIS TOUR IS ALSO CONDUCTED WITH SCHOOL STAFF ON PRO-D DAYS, SOMETIMES INCLUDING LUNCH. LUNCH AT THE SONGHEES BIGHOUSE CAN ONLY BE INCLUDED WHEN THE BIGHOUSE IS AVAILABLE. THE COST OF LUNCH WOULD BE COVERED BY THE SCHOOL.

⊕ **Park Walks:** [2-1/2 HOURS]

This walk incorporates cultural land and plant use. Students will be shown how to identify foods, plants and areas used by the First Nations, and will make them aware of the link between food gathering and the life-long beliefs and values of the Lkwungen First Nations Peoples. Within this tour, we are also able to venture into an old mine shaft, which is quite safe, but might be a little intimidating for some young children as it is dark and confined. **IF THIS PART OF THE TOUR IS INCLUDED, EXPECT BOTH THE CHILDREN AND THE ADULTS TO GET DIRTY!**

⊕ **Craigflower Creek Walk:** [2-1/2 HOURS]

This is similar to the park tours minus the mine shaft. The uniqueness of the area makes this walk different because of its setting and challenges. The history of the local culture is evident in this setting and the ties to traditional values and beliefs are clearly seen. We also provide a link to hunting and fishing, and if the students are fortunate, they may see some animals and, in the winter, some fish.

Within each of these walks, our goal is to link the Prescribed Aboriginal Learning Outcomes (<http://www.sd61.bc.ca/anedCulture.aspx>) to subjects that the students are learning in school including social responsibility, community and goal setting. There are also links to technology, invasive and natural species of plants, environmental issues, and the impact of the Europeans upon the land and First Nations.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS, CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE,
BE DRESSED FOR THE OUTDOORS AND THAT
THEY BRING THEIR OWN SNACKS AND/OR LUNCH.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOLS ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION**



If you wish to book a walk, please complete and submit an **Aboriginal Curriculum & Cultural Integration Program Request Form** available through your school office or online at: <https://aned.sd61.bc.ca/curriculum.aspx>
For more information you can contact the ANED Office at (250) 475-4124