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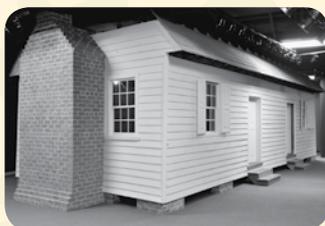
THE STORY OF

NORTH CAROLINA

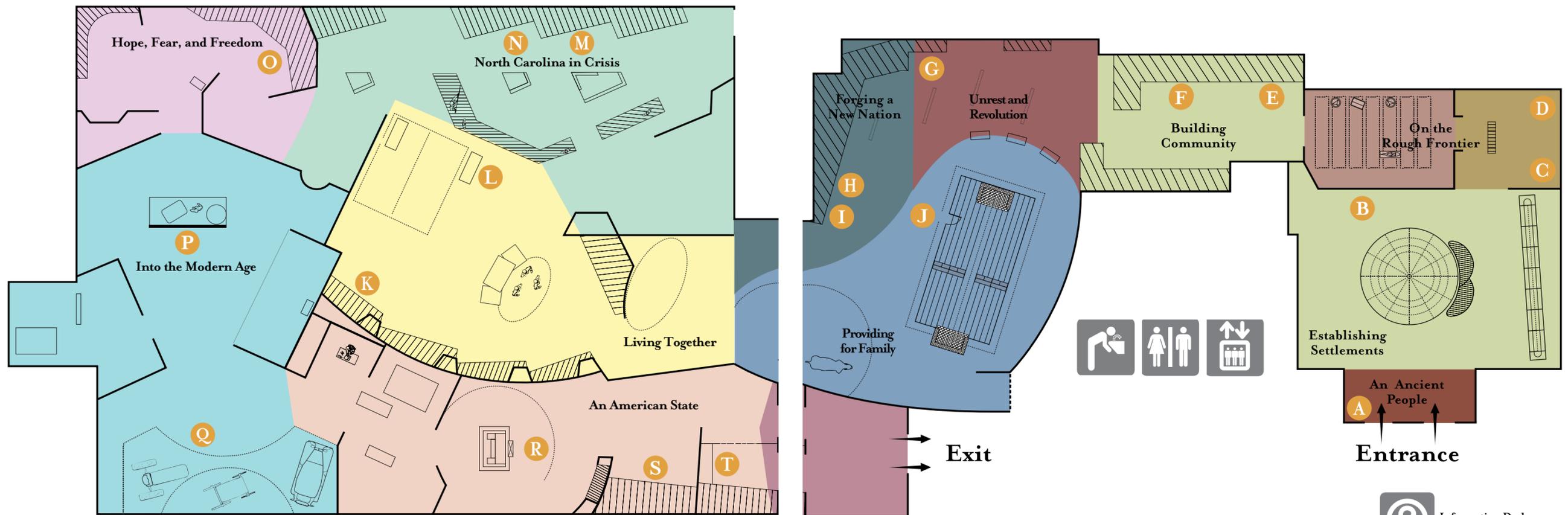
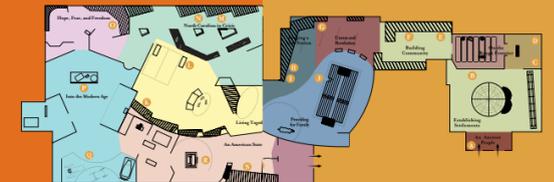
EXHIBIT GUIDE

North Carolina Museum of History

Museums like to use the “stuff” of history—artifacts—to bring history to life. The artifacts in this exhibit were actually used by people in our past and individually represent unique objects to explore. Together, they help tell *The Story of North Carolina*. A closer look at some of these interesting artifacts will help you understand our history and connect to your own North Carolina stories.



THE STORY OF
NORTH CAROLINA
EXHIBIT GUIDE



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An Ancient People

A PITTED STONE



Courtesy of Earl and Margaret T. Norman Collection,
 Office of State Archaeology Research Center, Raleigh



Look closely at the two images. Both of these are nutcrackers! Nuts are tasty foods with great nutrition but can be hard to, well, crack. More than 3,000 years ago, American Indians in North Carolina used the smaller grooves in this stone to crack nuts, collecting and grinding the meats in the larger notch. By the 1500s, carved wooden nutcrackers were being made in Europe. The well-known carved soldiers and kings, with their oversized heads and fierce faces, emerged from Germany in the 1800s.

Questions:

*What other tools do you see here that have modern equivalents?
 Does your family have a nutcracker? What does it look like?*

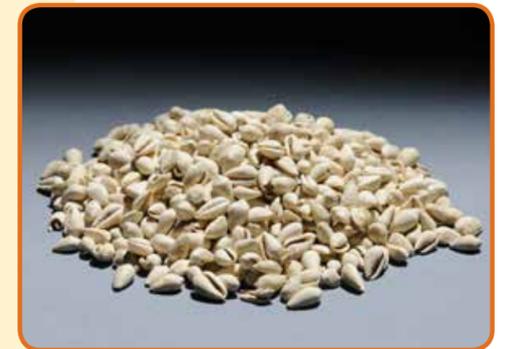
On the Rough Frontier

If you have visited a North Carolina beach, you have likely seen Marginella shells, where they are plentiful. Imagine living some 200 miles inland, without ever having traveled to the coast. If a visitor walked into your village bringing these shells, you might want to trade something for them. These shells saw use by the Tuscarora Indians as trade goods. American Indians utilized shells as decorative pieces for jewelry and clothing.

Questions:

*What do you think American Indians would have wanted in return for the shells?
 Is trading still a major part of our economy?*

C MARGINELLA SHELLS



Courtesy of Meuborne-Patt Collection,
 Office of State Archaeology Research Center, Raleigh

Establishing Settlements

B MAP BASED ON JOHN WHITE DRAWING



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Examine this map and note the images on the bark house behind you. The map and villages are based on watercolors that John White painted over 400 years ago! His paintings served as souvenir “photos” of his travels in the 1580s to coastal North Carolina. White used pigments in powdered form, paper, and brushes. Shells served as paint pots. Colors came from minerals like indigo for blue; ocher for yellow; and bro-mine from shellfish for pink. Real gold was applied and silver used for fish scales. His paintings help us see a world that no longer exists.

Questions:

*What ways do we use today to record our “adventures”?
 Is it important to record vacations and everyday life? Why?*

What’s in a name? In 1663 Charles II rewarded eight loyal supporters (Lords Proprietors) with a huge gift—a grant of land including what would become North and South Carolina. The feudal system these men planned for Carolina did not last, but their imprint on this land remains in place-names. Examples of Proprietor place-names in North Carolina include the town of Albemarle and Craven County. The name Carolina comes from the Latin version of Charles, the king who granted this land to the Proprietors.

Questions:

*What is the name of your county? Why is it named that?
 Can you share any place named for someone?*

D ENGRAVINGS OF LORDS PROPRIETORS



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Building Community

E WOMAN'S SHOES



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Walking a mile in someone else's shoes" helps us imagine life for anyone who lived a long time ago. Ask, "How and where were the shoes made? What was their purpose?" These lovely shoes consist of silk, linen, and leather and are made in the latest fashion of the 1760s. Were they perfect for working in the fields or hauling water? Perhaps not. Few people could afford a pair of shoes made without such practical purposes in mind. These shoes belonged to Mrs. Wilson Blount, a member of a wealthy North Carolina family.

Questions:

Where do you think Mrs. Blount might have worn these shoes? (Perhaps to a dance or a party or in the home)

What is your favorite pair of shoes? Why? Do you think they will be in a museum someday?

F STICK



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

This may be "just a stick," but it has meaning and makes connections. This stick demonstrates a connection between enslaved people and their spiritual roots in Africa. The West African custom of placing a stick in a building's walls indicated spiritual protection for the inhabitants. Enslaved people also maintained their cultural roots through music, including banjo music. Of African origin, the banjo could be made with a gourd and string, and its music helped express a slave community's joys and sorrows. Simple things—a stick, a gourd—helped to keep people together in difficult times.

Questions:

Do you have traditions in your family that connect you to a place or time?

Can you think of other ways enslaved peoples maintained community? (Singing, storytelling, and more)

Unrest and Revolution

Remember the Boston Tea Party where tea was dumped overboard because of the tax on it? In Edenton, N.C., some 50 women agreed not to purchase tea because of the hateful tax. Why then is a tea kettle part of Revolutionary War general Francis Nash's gear? Soldiers still craved warm drinks. While General Nash's supplies were carried on a wagon, regular soldiers had to walk carrying most of their supplies. Often, kettles and other heavy items were thrown out to lighten the men's loads. Soldiers used what they had—tea, coffee, roots, or leaves—then boiled water in what they could find, and drank!

Questions:

What do soldiers eat and drink today? (Meals Ready to Eat—MREs—or other supplies from military shops)

Who do you think might have prepared General Nash's tea? (Possibly an enlisted soldier or a slave)

G KETTLE



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Forging a New Nation

Look closely at this painting of our State Capitol. It differs from the State Capitol across the street from the museum. Jacob Marling made this painting of the State House in 1830. Originally built between 1792 and 1796, the State House proudly displayed a marble statue of George Washington in its rotunda (see replica to your left). Marling's careful depiction of this building gained additional meaning after fire destroyed the State House and the statue in 1831. Ironically, the building burned as workers applied zinc plates to the roof in an effort to make it fireproof.

Questions:

Why do you think the Capitol is made of stone? (Possibly because it cannot burn.)

H PAINTING BY JACOB MARLING



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Forging a New Nation

I HELMET



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

This type of helmet saw use by some North Carolina militia officers in the decades before the Civil War. Its style was inspired by helmets worn during the classical Roman and Greek civilizations. Imagine riding a horse or fighting a battle while wearing this helmet!

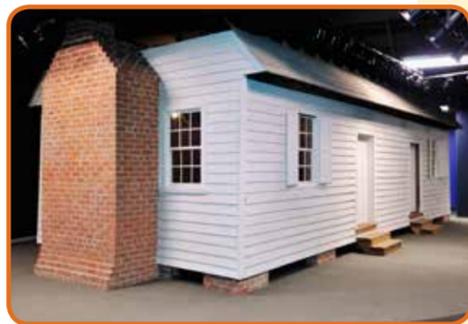
Questions:

Compare the helmet with the coin. What similarities do you see? What fashions today do you think will end up in a museum?



Providing for Family

J ROBSON HOUSE



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

When newlyweds William and Mary Whichard made this building their residence in 1846, their “new” house had already been a home for some 100 years. Built in 1742 by Solomon Robson, the entire house consisted of one room with a loft! In this space, a whole family slept, ate, cooked, bathed, sewed, did chores, studied, and socialized. Many activities were moved outside, weather permitting. The Robson House represents a modest home from our past. People of greater and lesser means lived differently, as did enslaved people and American Indians.

Questions:

Compare this home with a modern house today. What is missing? (Spaces like bathrooms and closets, electrical outlets, and more)
What was used in place of these missing items? (Outhouses and chamber pots; the chest of drawers, hanging cupboard, and blanket chests; and more)

Living Together

Where do you keep your spare change? In a piggy bank, jar, or old sock? In the antebellum period, folks in the United States melted their coins and had them made into teapots! In the 1820s, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission required that the new national currency contain at least 90 percent silver. Coins from Europe (having less silver) could no longer be used for money. Silversmiths found a practical use for the still-valuable coins, creating “coin silverware,” like this tea set.

Questions:

What are U.S. coins made from? (Pennies contain copper and zinc; nickels, dimes, and quarters contain copper and nickel.)
How do you reuse objects?

K COIN SILVER TEA SERVICE



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Do you know who made your shoes? James Madison Lee, a white child growing up on the Lee Plantation in Johnston County, probably knew the enslaved person who made these leather shoes for him. Many enslaved individuals were skilled craftspeople who creatively reused castoffs from their owners for their own needs. They also produced household goods from things found nearby. Some slaves earned money doing extra work beyond that required of them, and could buy things too. Enslaved people actively sought to enrich their everyday lives where possible.

Questions:

Do you see a left and a right shoe? (These shoes were made without a left/right orientation. Wearing them helped shape the shoes.)
Are your shoes similar to these? How do they differ?

L SHOES



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

North Carolina in Crisis

M SILVER THIMBLE



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

Thimble, thimble, who's got the thimble?" goes an old saying. A thimble has been a must-have tool for needleworkers for thousands of years. Ancient peoples used bone pieces to protect their fingers. Early bronze thimbles discolored the wearers' fingers. In the 1500s, thimble makers were professional artisans using brass, silver, gold, and enamel to create thimbles in beautiful designs. Over time, this small tool became a status symbol and popular gift item, as well as a promotional giveaway—sort of like finding a toy in your cereal box!



Questions:

What popular game uses a thimble as a game piece? (*Monopoly*)
 Ask family members if they have a thimble or a memory of someone using one.

N GAUNTLETS



Courtesy of Newborne-Pait Collection, Office of State Archaeology Research Center, Raleigh

If only they could talk . . . These gauntlets belonged to the "Boy Colonel," Henry "Harry" Burgwyn, who was one of some 700 men (out of about 800) killed, captured, or wounded from the 26th North Carolina Regiment, North Carolina Troops, at the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. Harry's enslaved servant Kinohen returned them to Burgwyn's father, who in turn gave them to Harry's brother William. William Burgwyn was captured in 1864, and his enslaved worker Pompey returned the gloves to William's wife. While gauntlets have their origins in armor-clad knights, they remain in use today by fencers, astronauts, and welders!



Questions:

Compare the gauntlets with the image here. What similarities do you see?
 What does "throw down the gauntlet" mean? (*Issuing a challenge*)

Hope, Fear, and Freedom

When the formerly enslaved girl Sallie used this slate to attend school for the first time in 1866, she truly was starting fresh, or with a "blank slate." This phrase can mean to begin anew, and launching her education as a free person was indeed a new beginning for her. Using a slate for writing, however, was a very old practice, as was utilizing an abacus, or counting tool, which dates back more than 4,000 years in many different cultures.

Questions:

What is slate? (*Slate is a metamorphic rock; when cut, it makes flat sheets that are used as floor and roofing tiles.*)
 How does an abacus work? (*It is an aid for counting; it helps to keep track of sums and carries.*)

O SLATE WITH ABACUS



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History



Into the Modern Age

Ossa Evenline Weaver (*pictured below*) stands next to a large, formal, rather hard-looking chair. Likely she more enjoyed rocking away in the "buggy chair," the name her family gave this small rocker. This adult-sized folding rocker and a child-sized one were taken to church and camp meetings in the late 1800s. The idea of rockers on a chair came after using rockers on cradles. Hollowed-out log cradles date to the Middle Ages, sometime between the years 500 and 1200. Today thousands of designs for rocking chairs exist.

Questions:

How do rocking chairs work? (*Rockers "rock" because they have contact with the floor in only two places.*)
 What other meaning does "rocker" have? (*Someone who loves rock-and-roll music!*)

P ROCKING CHAIR



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History



Into the Modern Age

Q HIGH-WHEELED BICYCLE



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History



What's the latest must-have item for you and your friends? If you were a young man in the 1880s, you probably wanted a bicycle like this one. Rubber tires and new metals made this vehicle an improvement over the wooden "bone shaker" that preceded it, but still it was dangerous. Because the rider was seated so high up over the axle, any bump in the road could lead to a fall, head first. Still the large wheel allowed for a smooth, long ride—one turn of the pedal went a long way! Wanting to avoid taking a "header," many ladies preferred the big-wheeled tricycle.

Questions:

How big were the wheels? (As long as your legs allowed! The pedals were attached directly to the wheel.)

How much do you think a high-wheeled bike cost in 1880? (It was expensive, costing an average worker six months' wages, around \$35.)

An American State

R WOOD CARVING



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

It's a zoo in here! Take a look around the room at all the animals you see. Inspired by the stories and natural world around her, Eastern Band of Cherokee tribe member Amanda Crowe found a dancing bear in this piece of wood. A reawakening to North Carolina's crafts traditions encouraged many artisans to continue with handicrafts that reflected their heritage while bringing their own creative insights to pottery, carving, and textile work.

Questions:

How many other animals do you see in this area of the exhibit?

Why do you think Crowe chose a bear to carve?

An American State

Also known as the Blue Star Banner, the service flag was designed by a World War I army captain who had two sons serving on the front lines. Each blue star represented a family member serving in the armed forces. A gold star would cover a blue star if a service member had died or was killed. During World War II, the use of service flags became widespread. The flags inspired a veteran services organization, the Blue Star Mothers of America.

Questions:

Are service banners in use today? (The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have made them popular in homes and as car magnets.)

Examine this World War II poster with the dog. It reads "... because somebody talked!" What is it suggesting to people?

S SERVICE BANNER



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History



T LUNCH COUNTER



Courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History



Courtesy of News & Observer
 Negative Collection, State Archives of North Carolina

Hot dog? Hamburger? Chicken salad sandwich? Cold fountain soda? What do you think was served on this counter? You probably have lots of choices of where to buy and eat your lunch. However, African Americans and some American Indians had limited dining choices for decades because of racist policies and attitudes. Change came in part because young African Americans sat peacefully at this counter and waited to be served. What did they order? Equality and justice.

Questions:

Can you think of other examples of nonviolent protesting? (In addition to sit-ins, there were marches, picketing, and other nonviolent forms of protest.)

Do discount and department stores still have lunch counters? (Most do not; fast-food restaurants have replaced them.)

*Thank you for returning this
guide to the bin at the end of the exhibit.*



NORTH CAROLINA
MUSEUM OF HISTORY

History Happens Here

ncmuseumofhistory.org