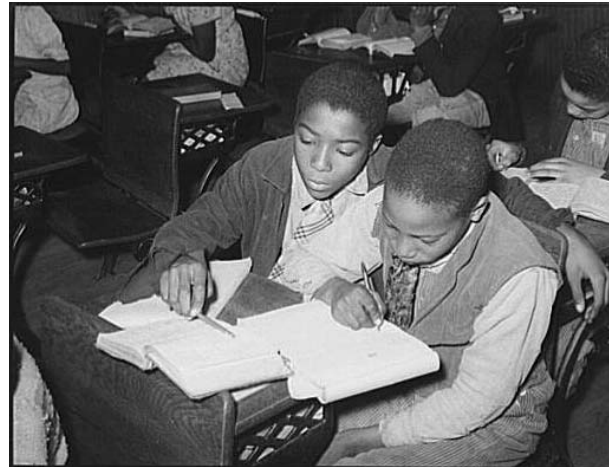
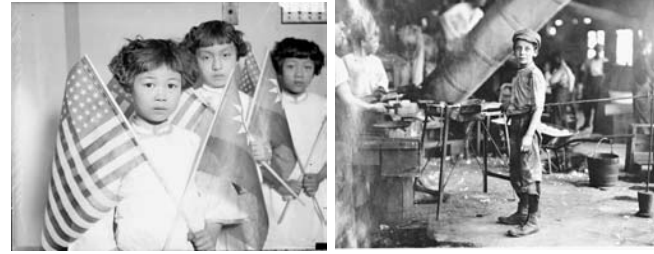




Trunk Tales Make Social Studies An Intimate Experience

Students take turns selecting the items from small trunks. Students learn their historical significance in discussion and through hands-on interaction with the items. Some of these objects become centerpieces of stories.

Most of these tales have been composed exclusively for the Trunk Tales program. Stories change or are adapted to every grade level, journeying from family and neighborhood, to the community, the state, the nation and the world.



Trunk Tales



(973) 761-1774
www.trunktours.com



Trunks teeming with history; tales teeming with heroism.

A Slice of History

Elementary Students (K-6) can now experience a slice of American history focusing on the life of the early 20th Century child in an engaging and hands-on way. Each month of the academic year, "Trunk Tales" brings a different themed program, featuring a unique collection of historical memorabilia (most items chosen for their value to the children of yesterday).

Programs maximize the individual student's opportunity for inquiry, interaction and response. It is therefore recommended that student groups be kept at an optimal number. Depending on the grade level of the students, programs will last from twenty minutes to forty-five minutes. Schools may choose to reserve for two days, thereby insuring that every grade level participates.

The following is a list of the ten themed programs. This list includes an abbreviated description of program content.

SEPTEMBER: " SCHOOL DAZE." School life has changed so much over this past century ... yet so much has remained unchanged. The collection includes boys and girls school outfits (knickers and middy blouses, oxfords and saddle shoes), classroom essentials, recess games, friendship souvenirs and of course the ubiquitous report card. One story tells of a schoolgirl named Grace who wrote a very convincing letter to Mr. Abraham Lincoln, suggesting that growing a beard could hand him the election. This 14-year-old girl changed the face of history by changing just one celebrated face in history.

OCTOBER: "HOME SPUN YARNS." Before the refrigerator there was the icebox; before the automatic washer there was the washing board. Before the automatic dryer there was the clothesline; before the electric iron, there was the stove-heated iron. Early 20th Century necessities are put into story context with a make believe tour through an old house, ending with a spooky tale from the best of old time radio.

NOVEMBER: "SPARE TIMES." Americans struggled through hard times in the 1930's and 1940's. Children sold newspapers on busy corners, polished the shoes of the well-heeled, worked long hours on family farms and folded the laundry, taken in by mom. In the 40s scouts made bandages for wounded allies and school children collectively purchased liberty bonds. Collection includes depression glass, Shirley Temple doll, wartime ration coupons and excerpts from radio ads that promoted the Victory Garden and Liberty Bonds. Stories celebrate the joy of sharing, and underscore this simple truth: the best things in life are free.

DECEMBER: "TOY STORIES." The dolls are made of china. The model cars and trains are cast iron. The wooden toys are clearly homemade. Today these childhood treasures are the denizens of museums, attics and fancy shops. One of the dolls "Sally Mae," is the central character in her very own true story, which tells how my mother, Virginia Sullivan, at 12-years-old, became Sally's lifelong caretaker during 1929's fateful holiday season. Another story tells how President Roosevelt gave his name to the best-loved American toy.

JANUARY: "NEWFANGLED NOTIONS." The collection features a host of early 20th Century inventions that made our lives more livable and more fun. One comes from the mind and the laboratory of a local Jersey guy named Thomas. Mr. Ford is remembered as well with some examples of his finest cars (in model form, of course). January's stories explore the value of sticking with a really good idea, and seeing that idea to its conclusion.

FEBRUARY: "STANDING TALL STORIES." This month we honor our presidents and the richness of black history. "Standing Tall Stories" reminds us that we need not be tall, nor standing at all to stand so very, very tall. Hence the session begins with a display of a miniature school desk. "Take your seat, Miss Brown" is the name of the story, which is told from the point of view of the little Linda. The story recalls the momentous 1954 Supreme Court decision which ended school segregation in the United States. Other stories and attendant memorabilia underscore the importance of personal courage in the defense of democracy.

MARCH: "TRADE TALES." The Fuller Brush man, the Ideal Farms milkman, the Senger coal and ice man, and the Bond Bread man are a part of our past...but then so is the wheelsmith, the whitesmith, the roustabout and the tinker. A story, "Mr Clancy's Keys," tenderly tells the story of a special bond between an aged Irish-American ice man and a lonely Jewish immigrant boy. The boy's family becomes the last in the neighborhood to buy a refrigerator. The old man facing retirement, bequeaths his tongs to Isadore, calling them "my keys to America." Other memorabilia include the wares and tools of old, nearly forgotten trades.

APRIL: "JERSEY AND JEST JERSEY." Our own Garden State is the home of the first baseball game (Hoboken), the home of the first silent picture show (West Orange), the first intact dinosaur find (Haddonfield) and the first planned industrial city (Paterson). But the state has its quirky side too: For example, the quaint little town of Grover's Mills was alleged to be the first place on planet earth to host little green men from Mars. This program explores our state and its wonderful but sometimes wacky history.

MAY: "DOVE TALES." Stories and objects reflect the unique contributions made by men and women whose work "dovetailed" with the highest good of a community, a nation, a planet. Yet these heroes and heroines are as different from one another as the barefoot nomadic Johnny Appleseed is from the articulate, unflinchingly courageous Rachel Carson.

JUNE: "SUMMER TIMES." This collection represents favorite summer pastimes: Papa's 1920's bathing suit, wooden ice cream maker, stand up poster of Babe Ruth, wooden swing, antique circus truck and trolley car. Program evokes memories of summer in simpler times, when kids camped out on fire escapes, danced around open hydrants and gravitated to lazy streams and back-road swimming holes. "Elephants on Main Street" remembers the Clyde Brothers Circus and its summertime visits to New Jersey cities and towns.

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