

Authorized Pepper Only Tour: Classroom Activities and Assignments

These activities and assignments are designed to enhance students' understanding of basic principles used by museums in the care and preservation of their collection objects.

Classroom Activities:

1. Light Experiment

Take a sheet of paper and divide it into 7 strips. Place the strips side by side on top of a sheet of colored paper. Put the sheets in direct sunlight. Then remove one of the strips each day to see how light affects the paper. The experiment can also be done by removing a strip once a week.

2. Egg Parachute Experiment

A fun activity that demonstrates good storage techniques, this experiment requires the following items: knife/scissors, tape, egg, empty soda can, two plastic bags (1 could be bubble wrap). First students should cut a door to fit the egg into the empty soda can. Second they should wrap the egg in a plastic bag (or bubble wrap) and place the egg inside the soda can. Then tape the door shut. Bend the tab straight up, and slip the handles of the plastic bag through the top hole on the tab. Make them into an "O" shape and put the top of the chute through the O and pull tight being careful not to rip the tab off. Finally throw the can and watch the parachute deploy landing your egg safely. (Remember that museum employees do not normally toss around collection objects, but museums do have to be prepared for a disaster such as a tornado that might toss the objects around.)

Assignments:

1. Egg Drop Experiment

For this experiment students are asked to develop their own storage for an egg that would allow the eggs to be dropped from a predetermined height (2nd floor of a building, top of the bleachers, whatever has some height that can be reached safely) without the egg breaking. Students are to design their own storage container using egg cartons, shoe boxes, bubble wrap, polyester filling, Styrofoam, or other materials they may have access to. Once the storage container is designed and the egg placed in the box, students are then allowed to drop their container from the predetermined height to see if their design provides the right amount of support for the egg to prevent it from breaking.