

The Seaport Storykit Project

Presented by

Mystic Seaport
The Museum of America
and the Sea

and

**The Connecticut Bureau of
Education
and Services for the Blind**
(Department of Rehabilitative
Services)
Preschool Unit

Ask: How did children spend their time?
What chores did they do?
What is the knitted cotton square for? Who would make them?
How is the children's bedroom different from yours?
Where did they play?
What things grew in the garden?

Relax and playtime!

Children's Museum (#43 on your map)

This building is full of great activities for young children and their families. It may be a useful stop for you in between exhibits and/or a final destination. Have fun!

Stop One

Shipsmith (# 22 on your map)

(jib hank “A”, piece of coal “B”)

Hear: The bellows (and/or the crank of the air blower)
The fire crackling
The hammer on the anvil
The hiss of the metal as it cools in water

Smell: Fire and Smoke

Touch: Samples of things made there

Ask: What are the jib hanks used for?
When the anvil is struck, does the sound change as the iron cools down?
What other items were made in this shop?
What is the best part of being a shipsmith?

Stop Two

Cooperage (#29 on your map) (*limited wheelchair accessibility)

(wood shavings “C”, stave “D”)

Hear: The banging on the hoops
The rocking of the barrel to get it upright

Smell: Wood shavings

Touch: Barrels
Hoops and staves
Roman numeral carvings on barrels
Crawl into the big barrel

Ask: What were barrels used for?
How do you move a barrel?
How did they get into the belly of the ship?
What is the best part of being a cooper?

Stop Three

Middle Wharf (#27 on your map)

(toy seagull that makes the cry ”E”, shell “F”)

Seagulls dive deep in the water to get shellfish like clams, oysters and mussels to eat. The birds fly up high and drop them on the dock. The hard shells crack open so the birds can slurp up the shellfish hidden inside!

Hear: The call of seagulls
The crack of the shells hitting the dock
The crunch of broken shells under your feet

Smell: the seaweed and water at low tide

Touch: the shells on the dock

Stop Four

L.A. Dunton fishing schooner (#4 on your map) (*limited wheelchair accessibility)

(piece of rope “G”, piece of sail canvas “H”, toy boat “I”, piece of dried fish “J”)

Hear: Music and singing on board

Lines creaking through the blocks
Wind whistling through the rigging,
Noises of the dory being lowered into the water

Smell: Lines (plain vs. tar-covered)
Dried codfish

Touch: lines, plain vs. tar-covered

Ask: Why did men go out to sea to fish?
Why are some lines coated with tar?
What did fishermen eat?
While at sea, how did they catch the fish?
Why did they dry out the fish?

Stop Five

Buckingham –Hall House and garden (#41 on your map)
**(knitted cotton square “K”, dried herbs “L”, Jacob’s
Ladder toy “M”)**

Hear: The crackle of burning wood in hearth
The creaking of floorboards overhead and below your feet

Smell: Plants in the garden
Food items in the crocks and bowls

Touch: Food items in the kitchen
Leaves in the garden

Welcome to Mystic Seaport!

Thank you for visiting and participating in this joint project of Mystic Seaport and the Connecticut Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) program of the Department of Rehabilitative Services. We hope you enjoy your visit.

When you visit each of the five exhibits, help your child find the correct labeled object(s) in the storykit. Explore the objects together and talk about how they relate to the exhibit. Match your objects to the actual ones in the exhibit. Use this booklet as a guide and ask the Interpreters to demonstrate sensory aspects of the exhibit- especially auditory and tactile.

After your visit, please take the bag home with you and continue to use the objects to tell stories about and remember your visit to Mystic Seaport!

Your feedback is very important to us. Please send in your evaluation form in the enclosed envelope. You will receive a FREE Braille book, Town Small, written specifically about Mystic Connecticut!