



# School Programs Field Study

## Thematic Tour Lesson Plan

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2/08

**Tour Topic:** Geography & Exploration

**Tour Theme:** How does Vizcaya help us understand concepts of geography and the history of exploration? How can geography and exploration help us learn about Vizcaya?

**Grade Levels:** 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades

### Understandings:

- Students will understand the role of exploration in the context of Vizcaya's history
- Students will understand the geographic location of Vizcaya Museum and Gardens within Miami Dade County
- Students will understand how historic exploration relates to the history of Florida
- Students will understand select instruments used for various aspects of geography and exploration
- Students will understand that explorers travel the globe in the past and present to understand geography
- Students will understand how Vizcaya was named and its relation to historical exploration

### Essential Questions:

- Why do people explore unknown regions?
- What makes exploration possible?
- What do we learn by understanding and documenting geography?
- What is the benefit of interacting with new people and visiting new places?

### Knowledge:

- Students will know about select instruments, used in the past and present, related to navigation and weather
- Students will know how Vizcaya got its name
- Students will know how different kinds of maps relate to geography and exploration
- Students will know that Ponce de Leon explored Florida, and that the expedition occurred by boat
- Students will know that the historical significance of the caravel and why it is a symbol of Vizcaya

**Skills:**

- Discuss the contributions of explorers in the past and present
- Imagine past events based on select objects and the environment of Vizcaya
- Understand the basic goals and concepts of exploration
- Utilize the cardinal points and a compass to locate select areas in Miami Dade County and at Vizcaya, on a map
- Understand how select navigation and weather instruments operate
- Differentiate between primary and secondary sources based upon an archival resource
- Compare and contrast various objects (such as caravels, maps and instruments)
- Observation and interpretation of objects

**Instructional Strategies:**

- Pre field study classroom lesson
  - Powerpoint presentation provided by Vizcaya Museum and Gardens at no charge, and led by teacher
- Object and image-based discussions during field study and pre field study lesson
- Inquiry-based, facilitated discussions during field study and pre field study lesson
- Guided tour of main house during field study
- Text-based discussions using archival resources during field study
- Self guided tour of gardens during field study

**Note to Educators:**

- The field study will take place rain or shine. Comfortable shoes and casual clothes are suggested.
- All school tours are led by Volunteer Guides specifically certified and prepared by Vizcaya Museum and Gardens to work with school audiences as School Program Guides.
- During the guided tour students will have the opportunity to consider many different kinds of questions, and we welcome many responses. We do this to encourage thinking skills. In this way, the field study guided tour serves as an opportunity for educators to observe their students, and to consider how learning in the school classroom is applied and expanded upon in a new learning environment. We ask that you allow students time to consider and to respond to these questions.
- Guided tours often include a reproduction of archival resources and/or quotes regarding the history of Vizcaya. During the guided tour students will have the opportunity to read independently and aloud. As archival and historical resources they may be difficult to decipher or contain unfamiliar vocabulary – and this is the point. This is an opportunity for students to use context clues to read and understand unique and unfamiliar documents. We ask that you allow students time to puzzle through their reading, as facilitated by the School Program Guides. In this way, students' literacy skills are challenged at an appropriate level and educators have the opportunity to observe their students, and to consider how learning in the school classroom is applied and expanded upon in a new learning environment.

**Lesson Plan Format Based On:** Understanding by Design

Wiggins, G. and McTighe, J. (2005). Understanding by design. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.