

ABOVE AND BELOW

STORIES FROM OUR CHANGING BAY



Exhibition Lessons for
upper elementary grade students

The Bay, shellmounds, and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

There are several lessons (listed below) that you might want to use with your students when you go to the museum for the exhibit, *Above and Below: Stories From Our Changing Bay*. These lessons would be appropriate for some 3rd grade students, most students in grades 4 and 5, and some 6th grade students.

There are two lessons that focus on **Understanding the Bay**:

- **Mapping the Bay**: Uses a blank map of the Bay and gives directions for students to fill in the map with some of the cities, regions, and bridges located in the Bay Area.
- **Understanding the Bay**: Introduces facts and information about the Bay and also introduces students to some of the vocabulary related to the Bay. There are activities for students to complete before their visit, at the Museum, and some follow-up activities to enhance their Museum experience.

The exhibition also includes information about **Shellmounds**. There are three lessons to learn more about their place in history. Each lesson has activities for students to complete before their visit, at the museum, and some follow-up activities to enhance their Museum experience:

- **Shellmounds—Memories of a Sacred Landscape**: Explains what shellmounds are, how they have been viewed over time, and examines their place in the history of the Bay Area.
- **Remembering Those Who Died**: Compares Ohlone burial practices with practices from other cultures. The lesson encourages students to think about how cultures are similar even when they appear different.
- **Using Items to Learn About the Past**: Looks at evidence (replicas of artifacts and other items) from Ohlone culture to discover what these items tell us about pre-contact Ohlone life on the Bay.

There are four lessons related to the **San Francisco—Oakland Bay Bridge**. The lessons have activities for students to complete before their visit, at the museum, and some follow-up activities to enhance their museum experience:

- **Crossing the Bay:** Explains why bridges are helpful and how people have crossed the Bay from the time of the Ohlone to present day—including tule boats, ferries, and streetcars.
- **Working on the Bridge:** Uses oral histories from people who worked on the bridge. It examines the jobs they performed, and encourages discussion about what it might be like to work on the bridge.
- **The Bay Bridge Troll:** Provides information explaining what a troll is, why one was placed on the Bay Bridge and who created it.
- **The Bay Bridge—Old and New:** Compares the eastern spans of the San Francisco—Oakland Bay Bridge: the original cantilever bridge and new self-anchored suspension bridge. It also provides information about the bridge spans and encourages students to design a bridge span for the future.