
How to Use the Life in New Amsterdam Resource Guide

The Frederick A.O. Schwarz Children’s Center at the Museum of the City of New York serves tens of thousands of children and adults each year through fieldtrips, out-of-school time programs, family programs, and professional learning opportunities. This resource guide created by the Schwarz Children’s Center includes original essays written by leading scholars on the history of New Netherland. Additionally, it contains lesson plans with vocabulary lists, activities, and images of primary sources from the Museum’s collection — 17 of them were newly digitized for this guide. Lessons include contemporary connections that examine the Dutch influence still recognizable in New York today through its geography, diversity, tolerance, and entrepreneurial spirit. A bibliography for further research and a CD with the lessons are also provided.

While this guide is intended to stand alone as a resource, teachers may opt to bring their students to the City Museum for a fieldtrip to study New Amsterdam. The Museum offers a 90-minute interactive program called *Life in New Amsterdam* for students in elementary and middle school. Using a 3D scale model of the Castello Plan measuring 11 x 12 feet, together with objects, maps, and images, students learn about the daily lives of the settlers who lived and worked in New Amsterdam. As a culminating activity, the class completes a map of the 17th century trading town that they can bring back to school.

The resource guide and the fieldtrip align with the Common Core Standards for Literacy in History and Social Studies. By using these materials and participating in the fieldtrip, students will have the opportunity to:

- Explain events or concepts in a historical text based on information in the text (SL.4.4)
- Engage in collaborative discussions with the educator and with each other (SL.5.1)
- Participate in discussions by asking and answering specific content related questions (SL.5.1c)
- Summarize information presented visually (SL.5.2)

To register for the *Life in New Amsterdam* fieldtrip, or learn about professional learning opportunities for teachers, visit www.mcny.org/education or email schoolprograms@mcny.org. Additionally, you may use the Museum’s online Collections Portal at <http://collections.mcny.org> to view and download each source included in this resource guide.