

We The People

GRADES	DURATION	GROUP SIZE	IDEAL FOR
2-4	3 hours	10-30 students	Social studies, ELA, character education

A gentle introduction to democracy's big questions, anchored in the exhibition's core themes and Philosophy for Children-style discussion. Younger students explore what it means to have a voice, what fairness looks like, and what it means to belong to a community—questions the exhibition asks across 250 years of American history.

LEARNING GOALS

- Describe what it means to belong to a community and name some responsibilities that come with membership.
- Explain what fairness means in their own words and give an example
- Name at least one way people throughout American history have used their voice to be heard
- Practice listening to and building on classmates' ideas in structured discussion

PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS

No background knowledge or pre-reading required. Before your visit, consider asking students: What's something your community decides together? What happens when people disagree about what's fair? Let us know if your class has been exploring a picture book or fairness unit—we'll connect the visit to work already underway.

FIELD TRIP WALKTHROUGH

1 Welcome and orientation 15 minutes

Students arrive, receive a brief orientation, and set community agreements for the visit. Central question introduced: What does it mean to have a voice?

2 Read aloud and discussion 30 minutes

P4C-style facilitated inquiry around a picture book on fairness, voice, or belonging. Students share thinking, respond to one another, and sit with open questions.

3 Guided exhibition experience 60 minutes

Curated walk through *Voices and Votes* with facilitated stops. Includes the "My Fellow Citizens" activity from the American Experiments trunk.

4 Nature walk and reflection 30 minutes

A short facilitated walk through the DePauw Nature Park connects shared space and stewardship to the day's themes of community and belonging.

5 Closing circle 15 minutes

Students share one thing they're still thinking about. Facilitators close with a send-off that invites students to keep noticing how their communities make decisions together.

INDIANA SKILLS + STANDARDS

SOCIAL STUDIES

SS.3.CG.1: Citizenship components

SS.4.H.1: Significant historical events

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ELA.4.SL.1: Collaborative discussion

ELA.5.SL.1: Building on others' ideas

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

SEL.A1: Emotional Awareness

SEL.C1: Cooperative Skills

SEL.B1: Perspective-taking

LOGISTICS

ACCESSIBILITY

Campus and exhibition space are fully accessible. Note any specific needs when submitting your inquiry.

OUTDOOR WALK

Nature walk is on a gently graded path. Dress for weather. Indoor alternative available if needed.

MEALS

Not provided. Groups may bring a packed lunch; outdoor space available subject to availability.

Book a visit.

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