5 Fun, Kid-Friendly Activities to Celebrate National Historic Marker Day

Mail a Letter to Your Local Historical Society or Museum

History and museum professionals make a difference in our communities. Many of these individuals are involved in helping us to research, understand, interpret, preserve and commemorate history, including by working to obtain historical markers. In recognition of their hard work and in celebration of National Historic Marker Day, work with your students to write a thank-you letter to your local historical society or museum about something you appreciate they have done for your community.

Develop Your Own Historic Marker Trail

The Historical Marker Database and Pomeroy Foundation's interactive marker map are online resources for locating and learning about historical markers. Work with your students to identify markers of interest in your neighborhood, community or region. What subjects are commemorated? Using these mapped points of interest, work with your students to create a trail of historical markers they could imagine themselves visiting in real life when participating in National Historic Marker Day.

Create Historic Marker Rubbings

If you are volunteering to clean markers in your community, consider doing a "marker rubbing" with your students to bring home as a keepsake of your efforts. Similar to most stone rubbing activities, you'll need a large sheet of paper (e.g., rice paper), as well as a crayon or charcoal to capture the details on the marker. Approach your setup carefully, especially if the paint on your marker is fragile.

Draw Your Own Marker Design

Historical markers come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Some are designed to be roadside markers, while others are mounted to physical structures such as buildings. Inspire creativity and invite your student to answer the question: What would my historical marker design look like? In this art-focused activity, bring out the pencils, crayons and paper to help your student create a marker. What colors should it be? What shape will you use? Where will it be located?

Write Your Own Historic Marker Inscription

Wouldn't it be fun for students to write a marker inscription about themselves, their community or something they are passionate about? Take this opportunity to encourage student creativity around commemorating a subject of interest. During this activity, provide guidance about why research is important to understand history, as well as the impact historical markers have on communities.