### Purpose:
Introduce students to different landmarks, geography, and historical events of the South using the Morris’ collection.

### Objectives:
- Show students what states make up the South
- Show the varying geography and landscapes of the South
- Teach about different historical events that took place in the South connected to the museum’s collection

### Ages:
All (PreK-8th); 4-14

### Tour Stops/Topics:
- **Surprise Attack at Harper’s Ferry**: Historic Battlefields
- **Ocoee**: Ocoee River, Tennessee; 1996 Olympics; Whitewater Rafting
- **Artist in His Studio**: Other museums and historical monuments
- **Afternoon at the Beach, Chesapeake Bay**: Chesapeake Bay; nature/ecology of the bay
- **Natchez Under the Hill**: Mississippi River Trade; Indian Burial Mounds, Natchez Indians

### Activity:
“En plein” air watercolor painting of the Savannah

### Props:
- **Beginning**: Map of the USA with the South and road trip stops marked
- **Surprise Attack**: Map of the South with all of the Civil War battles
- **Ocoee**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViGRJszVHSo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViGRJszVHSo) video of the 1996 Olympics on the portable dvd player
- **Artist in his Studio**: Map of the Mall, match board, artifact/art piece with museum
- **Afternoon at the Beach**: Replicas of blue crabs and oysters; map of Chesapeake Bay; men’s and women’s bathing suits in the 1930s
- **Natchez Under the Hill**: Pictures of the Natchez Indian Mounds; Map of the Mississippi River with ports marked out (including Natchez); Map of Natchez Trace
**Selected Paintings:**

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**Tour Rotations:**

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***Start the tour with map of the South showing all of the “road trip” stops of the tour***
Contemporary Hall Stop

Art Rosenbaum (b. 1938)

Ocoee (1997)

**TOPIC:** Ocoee River, Tennessee; 1996 Olympics

**Props**
1. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViGRJszVHSo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViGRJszVHSo) video clip from the 1996 Olympics on the portable dvd player

**Vocabulary**
Slalom - a race down a winding course marked by flags or poles

**About the Work/Artist**

Art Rosenbaum was born in 1938 in Ogdensburg, New York, but has lived all over the world, and spent 30 years in Athens, GA where he taught art at the University of Georgia. In addition to painting, Rosenbaum is an author and musician; he is a vocalist and plays the banjo and fiddle, among other instruments. He spends much of his time traveling and recording folk music, and won a Grammy for his work in 2008 for Best Documentary Recording. Like Ocoee, many of Rosenbaum’s paintings depict a specific historical event, and are narrative paintings-telling a story. Also seen in other paintings, like Ocoee, elements of music are often incorporated.

This painting shows the Ocoee River in Tennessee, which has a significant connection to a world famous sporting event—*can anyone guess what event that is? (The Olympics)* Does anyone know when and more specifically, where, the Summer Olympics took place in the USA? (1996, Atlanta, GA). The main location for the Olympics of 1996 was Atlanta, but they used the Ocoee River as a course for whitewater sports/slalom just a couple hours north in Tennessee. What makes this scene even more unique is that the Ocoee held the first Olympic whitewater/slalom event on a natural river. In past Olympic games, a whitewater competition area had to be made or staged, but they used the Ocoee River for the 1996 Olympics and made some modifications for the course.

**Interpretive Questions:**

1. What do you see in this painting? [Someone playing a fiddle, looks like people partying, a person on a kayak in the background]
2. How would you describe the mood of this painting? How does it make you feel? [Could be chaotic, fun, energetic, there’s a lot going on]
3. Could you tell that this river is used for competitions or sporting events? [Yes, if you notice the striped poles/gate in the water that rafters/kayakers have to try to row through]

4. Is whitewater rafting or kayaking a sport? Does it look like something you could do? Do you think you need training or practice? Why or why not? [After this question you can play the clip from the Olympics on the portable DVD player]

5. Does anyone know what river is right outside the museum? Similar recreational activities happen on the Savannah every day.

Civil War Gallery Stop

John Mooney (1843-1918)

*Surprise Attack near Harper’s Ferry (circa 1868)*

**TOPIC:** Historic Battlefields

**Props**
1. Civil War Battle Site Map

**About the Work/Artist**

From memory, John Mooney painted what it was like for him to serve in the Civil War. While bathing, he and his fellow soldiers were ambushed by the enemy. We can assume that this very moment and the events of the war greatly influenced him for the rest of his life. Mooney went through great pains to recreate this image from memory, even using live models to paint from. He was said to have carried a special tube in which he was able to place the carefully rolled canvas of this painting. He would then have it with him to show various people and retell the story behind the scene. Mooney may have suffered from PTSD, and spent some time in an insane asylum, and died in a poor house.

You may have seen paintings called “dioramas,” which are meant to make you feel like you are completely within a scene, or, sometimes a museum may use an architectural trick like this, the curved frame and wall, to make an average painting appear more impressive than it really is. To achieve the vision of a diorama, the painting had to be lined to a flexible, fiberglass laminate plate, and then placed in a custom-designed frame. The process is meant to be completely reversible, so that at any time, the painting can go back to its original form.

**Interpretive Questions**

1. It may seem weird to travel to battle sites, but many travelers decide to do that. Why do you think someone would want to go to a battle site? [Significant historical importance; Or maybe they knew someone in that battle, or an ancestor was a soldier in that war]
2. Has anyone had relatives talk about serving or fighting in a war? Or a family member talk about an older family member, who is no longer alive, that served in a war? [These events are important to a lot of families and they choose to retell these stories so nobody forgets. Part of remembering could be going to a location where these things happened]
3. This painting is a scene from the Civil War. Does anyone know what were the two sides that fought in the Civil War? [the North and the South; Union and Confederacy] Where did the Civil War take place? [Throughout different states in the United States?]

4. (Show them the map) Where does it look like the most Civil War battles happened?

5. Does anyone know of another War that took place on U.S. soil? [Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War; leave this question for older groups, some groups may be too young for this question]

6. Does anyone know why there weren’t more battles from this war out West? [Because the United States didn’t rule that land yet]

Southerners at Play

Gladys Nelson Smith (1890-1980)

*Afternoon at the Beach, Chesapeake Bay* (1930s)

**TOPIC:** Chesapeake Bay; nature/ecology of the bay

**Props**
1. Blue crabs and oysters
2. Map of the Chesapeake Bay
3. Photograph of men’s and women’s bathing suits in the 1930s

**Vocabulary**
- Brackish – slightly salty, as is the mixture of river water and seawater in estuaries.
- En plein air – outside

Bay – A bay is a body of water partially surrounded by land. A bay is usually smaller and less enclosed than a gulf. It directly connects to a larger body of water.

**About the Work/Artist**

Some of Gladys Nelson Smith’s most praised works were her landscape pieces and paintings of children. Smith was born in Kansas but moved to Chicago in 1924 and studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. Smith later settled in Washington DC and took classes at the Corcoran School of Art. She would often paint *en plein air*, meaning she would begin her paintings outside, looking at the scene she was creating on her canvas.

**Interpretive Questions**

1. What do you see in this painting? What are the people wearing? What does it look like they’re doing? Can you tell if this painting takes place present day or from a long time ago? [People, sand/beach, water, people wearing bathing suits, playing tug-of-war, playing in the water; many of the bathing suits and caps indicate that this is a scene from an older time]
2. This painting takes place at the Chesapeake Bay. Does anyone know what states this bay is in? (Virginia and Maryland) Does anyone know what a “bay” is? (A bay is a body of water partially surrounded by land. A bay is usually smaller and less enclosed than a gulf. It directly connects to a larger body of water, like an ocean).

3. So since this Bay connects to the Atlantic Ocean, would it be salt water or freshwater? [Both! It’s brackish. At its mouth—where it connects to the ocean—it has higher salinity—meaning more salt. Further from the mouth it’s more fresh water].

4. What kind of specimens/animals do you think you would find in it? [The Chesapeake is home to more than 3,000 species! Oysters are common in the bay and are necessary to the health of the bay, as they filter out the water, straining the algae; blue crabs are also common, the oysters and the crab are a popular food source for people. Birds (pelicans), mammals (otters), and several species of fish all make the Chesapeake Bay their home] Pass around the oysters/shells, ask if anyone has eaten one before. The Bay is known for really delicious, fresh seafood!

5. What do think people do for fun on the Chesapeake Bay? What would you do? [Fishing, kayaking, swimming, etc…]

Southern Landscape (far back hall)

Louis Joseph Bahin (1813-1857)

Natchez Under the Hill (1852)

TOPIC: Mississippi River Trade; Indian Burial Mounds, Natchez Indians

Props
1. Pictures of the Natchez Indian Mounds
2. Map of the Mississippi River and Natchez Trace with ports marked out (including Natchez)
3. Picture/graph of a steamboat
4. Cotton plant

About the Work/Artist

Louis Joseph Bahin was born in Armentieres, France, in 1813. He married Fanny Josephine Caremantrand of Mantua, Italy, and resided in Paris where their two sons, Gustave and Alphonse, were born. He exhibited portraits at the National Museum of the Louvre in 1848 and 1850. The family immigrated to New Orleans and then established their permanent residence in Natchez, Mississippi, circa 1852.

From his studio, located above the Insurance Building on Pearl Street, Bahin earned his livelihood painting portraits and was one of the few resident painters in antebellum Natchez who had trained in France. Best known for his portraits, he also executed landscape paintings. He died in Natchez on June 27, 1857 and is buried there.
Natchez is a city in Mississippi along the Mississippi River. It was founded in 1716 by French colonists and was named after the Natchez American Indians who lived there. Many people come to Natchez to see the sacred ceremonial mounds that the Natchez constructed (show image of the mounds). If something is sacred or ceremonial, what do you think that means? (often means important, often religious events took place there). Can anyone think of a ceremonial or sacred place they know of used today? (churches, mosques, temples, etc.). The Natchez built up these mounds and constructed buildings on top of them for ceremonial services. Sometimes they held the bones of previous chiefs. Pass around pictures of mounds. There are mounds similar to these in Georgia too, the Ocmulgee mounds in Macon.

Just like Augusta and the Savannah River, existing along a major river was beneficial to Natchez’s economy. Being placed along the Mississippi River allowed people from the north of the city to ship goods south. After the steamboat was invented in the 1820s, even more trade could be done because goods were able to travel against the current more easily and shipped north. Show the image of the steamboat. Before steamboats were invented, people had to use the Natchez Trace (point it out on the map) to travel back north after arriving at Natchez. Why did they have to walk? (Because it was too difficult to row against the current of the Mississippi, which is why steamboats were so useful).

Rich planters built plantations here, because being alongside a major river made it easier to trade goods; can anyone guess what they might’ve grown? (cotton and sugarcane)

Artist in his Studio (Contemporary Art hall, far back)

Frank Wright (b. 1932)

The Artist in his Studio (1977)

TOPIC: Museums and Monuments

Props
1. Map of the National Mall and Memorial Parks
2. Matching Board for art pieces/artifact and their museums

About the Work/Artist

Frank Wright was born in 1932 in Washington D.C. and also received his Bachelor of Arts in D.C. from the American University. Wright earned his Master of Arts from the University of Illinois and then went on to study art history at Harvard. Wright also spent time studying art in Paris and Florence; in 1957, while in Florence, he married. Wright taught not only painting and drawing, but was also a professor of design and graphics the Corcoran School of Art and George Washington University.

Wright’s work is always figurative with an emphasis on optical reality (in the spirit of Vermeer). By interlacing photographic information with visual observation, he has endeavored to re-introduce the unfashionable category of history painting into the mainstream with a special
Has anyone been to Washington D.C.? Does anyone know any famous places or buildings you can find in D.C.? [White House, U.S. Capitol, museums, etc.] Why do you think people would travel to Washington D.C. to go see these places? Perhaps, because these places have a lot of importance to the country and to history. Like the White House, where the President lives, or the Capitol, where laws are passed, or museums, where art work, like art work here, is protected and preserved, as well as historical artifacts that are hundreds or thousands of years old. Can you look in your closet and find something hundreds or thousands of years old? Probably not! Most objects don’t survive hundreds or thousands of years without being protected or maintained. That’s often why objects end up in the museum. Museums like the Morris make it a point to protect objects so they can last for generations to come. We are a museum for southern art, but as you can see on this map (map of the mall and monuments) there are museums for many different subjects (have them point at the map and read some of the different museums out).

Interpretive Questions

1. I mentioned that the artist’s studio is across the street from the National Portrait Gallery, can you see anywhere in the painting where you could see that too? [In faint letters through the window, “National Portrait Gallery” is written on the wall]

2. Who can find the National Portrait Gallery on the map?

3. Which one of these places might you be most interested in going? Do you like seeing really old bones? Then maybe the Natural History Museum. Beautiful works of Art? Then maybe the National Gallery or National Portrait Gallery. Learning the history about peoples and cultures? Then maybe the National Museum of the American Indian. Space and flying? How about the National Air and Space Museum.

4. Take out the match board and let the students move the pictures/museum pieces to the correct museum