

**Assimilating Losing Home**  
**School/Group Program (To be facilitated by Museum Staff)**

**Related Exhibit Area:** Leaving Home

**Duration of Class:** 45 minutes

**Concepts/Skills:**

- Decision making

**Materials:** *(Not Included in Education/Program Props sent with the exhibit – Must be collected by the museum)*

- Various items
  - Articles of clothing (outfits – may be old donated clothing)
  - Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, lotion, toilet tissue, etc.)
  - Blankets
  - Towels
  - Toys (game boy, Nintendo, stuffed animal, IPOD, etc.)
  - Backpack/Bags/Luggage
  - Water
  - Food items (various kinds, i.e. can goods, etc.)
- Scale (to weigh the bags once packed)

**Educational Goals/Objectives:**

- To experience/simulate the thoughts around losing one's home – leaving what is familiar to you
- To recognize what is essential for survival
- To provide a forum for discussing “having” to leave your home; losing your home

**Outline:**

- Assemble the group of students
  
- Ask questions to introduce the concepts and to get the participants thinking about what it would mean to lose their home – to leave what is familiar to them and not know when or if they would return
  - What is home? Describe what home means to you?
  - How do you think it would feel to “have” to leave home suddenly?
  
- Today we will allow you to participate in an activity and I need \_\_\_ volunteers to help me (adults and children).
  - Offer a scenario that would speak to having to leave home suddenly and without having a plan (i.e. you were awoken suddenly in the middle of the night and you are being forced from your home. There are individuals with weapons waiting for you to leave, you have to leave very quickly). **Presenter Note:** *Depending upon the age of the students and your comfort level, you may choose another applicable scenario that would get the point across.*

- Introduce the activity, explain the items to choose from and the parameters (**Presenter Note:** *decide the parameters that you feel comfortable with, i.e. is there a limit on the amount of items they can chose, is it what you can grab in a certain time frame, is it however many as long as it can fit into a bag, etc. – either of these parameters would “feel” realistic based on the scenario*).
  - Allow the participants to select/collect the items that they would take with them if they had to leave home suddenly and place in backpacks/bags.
    - Weigh the items on the scale.
    - Allow the participants to share what they chose to take and why.
      - Ask questions that would encourage the participants and the audience members to think about the feasibility of taking these items, would the items chosen be the best choices, etc.
- Debrief with the students:
  - How did this activity make you feel? How do you think you would feel if you had to leave your home suddenly and could only take a fraction of the things that you had become accustomed to using and living with?
- Questions/Answers
- Thank you for visiting the museum and the exhibit today and enjoy the remainder of your time in the exhibition