

Docent Guide Overview

- Greet the customer as they approach the exhibit. Don't force someone to go through the exhibit if they are not interested, but offer the opportunity to passing customers.
- Ask the customer a few opening questions: are they familiar with the exhibit? Where did they hear about it? Do they have any thoughts on what they know so far about the content?
- Walk with and guide them through the exhibit. Ask questions and offer prompts to help them relate to the content. You don't have to be an expert on the exhibit as long as you are familiar with the flow and main points.
- If you feel unprepared to answer a customer's question, don't be afraid to say you don't know. You can respond by saying, "I'm not sure about that," and proceed by telling them what information you do know on the topic, or look at the content in the exhibit together to work to answer their question.
- Be prepared to answer questions about what is depicted in the pictures throughout the exhibit, as well as questions about our community in Calvert County/Southern Maryland.
- At the end of the tour, let the customer know there are some surveys they can fill out with the chance to win a couple of prizes.

Training Tasks

1. After going through the document below and the exhibit itself, come up with two questions you would ask a customer to help them interact with the exhibit.
2. Answer two of the application questions from the exhibit outline yourself.
3. Watch Calvert Library's Customer Service training video to better aide you in your interactions with our customers at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeBwkrL11c>

Exhibit Outline

Section #1- Introduction

- Main points:
 - Our World is Water- Water covers 71% of the world's surface, but only 3% of that is freshwater, much of it inaccessible because it's far underground.
 - The human body is 60% water.
 - Water is a gas, liquid, and solid.
 - The water that is on Earth today is all the water we will ever have because it gets recycled in what we call the **water cycle**.
 - The majority of the **freshwater** that we drink and use is surface water; however, we are using so much that rivers and other bodies of freshwater are shrinking. Bodies of water underground that have collected over thousands of years are called **aquifers**. It is expensive to drill far underground to reach many of these reservoirs, and the aquifers close to the surface are in threat of being used up. It is estimated to take 6,000 years to naturally refill the Ogallala Aquifer in the central U.S. if it was drained.

- **Watersheds** are areas of land where water collects and drains into a water source.
- Application questions:
 - Think about how water affects your life and your water consumption. How do you and your communities rely on water?
 - Think about where you see water in our world. Where does your water come from?

Section #2- Source

- Main points:
 - Cities and communities are built where water is.
 - Water can **create**, such as with the Grand Canyon or Niagara Falls, but it can also **destroy** when we experience flooding.
 - Many **faiths and religions** use water symbolically; it can be both powerful and cleansing. Water is used in many traditions and rituals such as the Christian baptism; the Jewish *mikvah* or “collection,” a ritualistic cleansing; and the Jewish New Year Rosh Hashanah; Water is a symbol for purity, and is used to cleanse oneself before entering an Islamic mosque, before a wedding ceremony or a festival celebrating a deity in the Hindu faith, to bathe statues of Buddha, and to cleanse oneself before praying in the Shinto faith of indigenous Japanese peoples. Many Native American communities show a reverence for bodies of water as a sacred object that many other religions such as Hinduism and Shinto exhibit.
 - Water is a cultural marker; communities identify themselves based on their **location to water**, such as the Bay Area or the Eastern Shore.
 - Many cities have been built on top of land that was once underwater, such as areas of Boston, San Francisco, and New Orleans; but, this has caused natural repercussions such as flooding and buildings to collapse.
 - Water is a **shared resource** between communities, which can sometimes cause disputes over the water source.
- Application questions:
 - What would you lose if you did not have water?
 - How is water important to your culture or religion?

Section 3- Flow

- Main points:
 - Waterways serve as a way to **travel, migrate, and trade**.
 - Water used to isolate land such as islands from the rest of the world before the innovation of water travel. Water can still be a boundary between communities, despite having bridges and water travel.
 - Bodies of water can be a **border** between communities and countries.
- Application questions:
 - How does the United States use water as a border or boundary?

Section 4- Quench

- Main points:
 - We use water as **energy** to do things like make goods, water crops, and cooking.

- There needs to be a better **balance** to how we use water. Currently, areas such as agriculture and industry are depleting our water sources, and poor environmental practices such as the burning of fossil fuels have led to pollution in our water sources.
- Point the patron to the **statistics** describing how much water we use in our homes. In total, Americans use between 80-100 gallons of water a day.
- 38% of our freshwater supply goes into **agriculture**. Water is used for both crops and raising and processing livestock.
- 40% of the United States' freshwater supply goes into making and powering machines and tools in **industry**.
- Water can also be used to **generate power** such as in water mills, hydroelectric power plants, underwater turbines, and by cooling nuclear power plants.
- Bodies of water have played a big part in the world's **trade**, as cities popped up around bodies of water as ports to send and receive trade ships and goods.
- Water has created industry that produces a market for fishing, lobstering, and crafting boats in shipyards.
- Water is not only powerful, but beautiful. We can enjoy water through community traditions and festivals.
- Application questions:
 - Where do you see the effects of a depleting water supply and environmental pollution in your community or your world?
 - How do you use water in your home?
 - How is water used to power your community?
 - What water traditions does your community celebrate?

Section 5- Water is Eternal

- Main points:
 - Our environment does not create water, but **recycles** it. 55% of the waterways in the US are polluted.
 - Many waterways are **depleted**; rivers and lakes in the United States have shrunk and left dry ground behind, which impact local wildlife as well as agriculture and threats of naturally occurring issues such as dust storms and flooding.
 - **Climate change** has caused an uneven distribution of water: some areas of the world receive more storms and rainfall while others experience bad droughts.
 - It is possible to reclaim our water sources and clean the water.
- Application questions:
 - What are some threats to water in your community?
 - Do you know where the water you discard goes after you pour it out?
 - What effects of climate change can we see today?

Other Resources

Full Water/Ways Exhibition Script

https://museumonmainstreet.org/sites/default/files/waterways_exhibition_script.pdf

Calvert Library Water/Ways events

- Shareable [document](#)
- Link to [events on library website](#)

Water/Ways Museum on Main Street info and schedule

<https://museumonmainstreet.org/content/waterways>

What is Calvert County doing to **be more sustainable** and to conserve and clean our water?

Calvert County is **partnering** with Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) to **conserve land** and work on **shoreline stabilization** projects.

https://www.somdnews.com/somdnews/more-conservation-assistance-on-way-to-calvert-county/article_627f87e5-35e8-582f-84d6-58ca4dce821d.html

Calvert County is a designated Sustainable Community under the Maryland Sustainable Communities Act of 2010. This means our local government works to make sustainable and **environmentally-conscious improvements** to our county, and renews our designation every five years. Over the last decade Calvert County has **upgraded sewer pumps**, made improvements to traffic patterns and added bike lanes, and started a mattress and an oyster shell **recycling program**. In 2018 Southern Maryland added a tri-county public transit connection between the three counties, and has built and opened the Harriet E. Brown Community Center.

Calvert County is currently working on **managing stormwater waste** and upgrading our water treatment plants to **enhance nutrient removal** (such as removing nitrogen) to protect our water quality.

CC Application: http://www.co.cal.md.us/DocumentCenter/View/21623/2018-Sustainable-Communities-Renewal-Application_Calvert-Draft---Copy-as?bidId

Calvert County is a part of 23 **watersheds**, including both the West Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River watersheds. The county has started the **Watershed Implementation Program** which focuses on improving stormwater retention and upgrading septic systems.

All of Calvert County's drinking water is supplied by ground water **aquifers**, which are greatly decreasing in water levels and are monitored.

Calvert County has a **greywater** system which takes stormwater runoff and building wastewater and uses it in irrigation or industrial processes.

http://www.calvertcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/27209/Comprehensive-Plan_July-2019-Draft

Local Facebook Pages

- [Sustainable Calvert Network](#)
- [American Chestnut Land Trust](#) (ACLT)
- [Friends of Hunting Creek](#)