

The Velda Chapman Doll Museum (School Tour)

--You will need to remind the children not to touch the glass on the showcases.

--When giving a school tour keep the children in the same room with you.

--You will probably not hear the bell and the door should not be left open. The next class is being asked to knock on the door.

--The information in parentheses is for you and not intended to be read.

INTRODUCTION

The Doll Museum was named after Velda Chapman who helped organize the Strongsville Historical Society and Village. From early childhood she was interested in dolls. Her love and respect for her dolls continued into adult life, and she continued to collect dolls until she had more than three hundred and fifty from all parts of the world. Velda's brother was fourteen years older and quite tolerant of a kid sister's pranks, except when every chair was filled with dolls and there was no place for him to sit.

Years ago parents encouraged their daughters to play with dolls so they could practice being good mothers. Girls also tested their sewing skills by making doll clothes.

THE FIRST ROOM

(Start off by asking) Does everyone know the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff? What was hiding underneath the bridge. **(Point out the TROLLS on the top shelf)**

Years ago people often made dolls out of the materials they had. Doll heads were sometimes made from dried apples that resembled very old, wrinkled people. **(Point out the apple dolls in green-checked clothing.)** Cornhusks could be soaked, bent, and tied to make a doll. **(Have the children point out the cornhusks dolls and ask where cornhusks come from.)** Others sewed rag dolls from cloth. **(Point out the Raggedy Ann doll)**

(Show the two-headed Storybook dolls on the bottom shelf and see if children can identify the stories that go with them—Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks and the three bears, the child awake and asleep)

THE MIDDLE ROOM

Most of the 350 dolls Velda collected were foreign dolls. These dolls were not made for children to play with, but to show the native dress worn by people in other countries.

(Go counter-clockwise around the room)

The dolls in this room represent many different countries. If you know what country some of your ancestors came from, look at the way they are dressed. **(You may have to explain the word ancestor) (Point out some of the countries as you go around.)**

The first cabinet represents the way people from **Europe** dressed.

The next cabinet shows the native dress of people from **Japan and China.**

The dolls on the first cabinet on the north wall are from the **Middle East, India, and South America.**

The cabinet on the other side of the doorway are **Native Americans and cowboys.**

The cabinet on the west wall represent people from **Ireland and Victorian England.**

Today most countries are trying to dress more like we do in America and this doll collection helps us to remember how they used to dress. Even in our country people used to dress differently than they do now.

THE LAST ROOM

(Continue by going counter-clockwise around this room.)

(Point out the dolls of Huck Finn, Tom Sawyer, and Pinnochio in the bottom of the first case as you enter.) Who can tell me something about Huck Finn & Tom Sawyer? Pinnochio?

Some of the dolls in here are a collection called "Madame Alexander." These dolls were not made for children to play with, but for adults to collect and display. Many of them are historical or famous figures. *(At this time show them some of the historical dolls)*

(Moving towards the end of the cabinet on this south wall, ask) Can someone find a president that the "teddy bear" was named after? **(Theodore Roosevelt).**

Can someone find the president who was the third president? **(Thomas Jefferson)**

On both sides of the outside door are two small cabinets filled with toy lead soldiers. These soldiers represent the time between World War I and World War II, which would be over 100 years ago.

(Continue around the room and using the labels tell them about some of the antique dolls on the west side)

(The dolls on the west wall are the antique dolls.) These are our oldest dolls. Toy makers created a variety of dolls in the 1800s. Most looked like adults. Dolls that resembled babies were not made until the late 1800s. Sometimes a doll was so beautifully dressed that the child was only allowed to play with it on Sunday and then only with clean hands. Some dolls were not to be touched by children at all.

--The children will leave by the same door they entered.

--If you have extra time, let them browse a few minutes in each room as you return to the first room.