

FLAGLER
MUSEUM

Discovering Whitehall

A JOURNEY TO THE GILDED AGE



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What Do We Already Know?

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR:

HENRY FLAGLER

WHITEHALL

GILDED AGE



Characters:

NARRATOR 1: (Clear, descriptive voice)

NARRATOR 2: (Enthusiastic, helps explain)

HENRY FLAGLER: (Confident, visionary)

MARY LILY FLAGLER: (Kind, elegant)

CARRERE AND HASTINGS: (Excited, practical)

YOUNG VISITOR: (Curious, observant)

MAID: (Polite, busy)

GUEST: (Impressed)



ACT I: The scene opens. *Narrator 1 and 2 step forward.*

NARRATOR 1: Imagine a time, long ago, in the early 1900s. Palm Beach, Florida, was a wild, beautiful place, but not many people lived there.

NARRATOR 2: But one man had a grand vision! His name was Henry Flagler. He had already built railroads and hotels, and now he wanted a special winter home for his wife, Mary Lily.

(HENRY FLAGLER and CARRERE, and HASTINGS walk onto the stage.)

HENRY FLAGLER: *(Gesturing broadly)* Mr. Architect, I want to build a house here in Palm Beach that will be a marvel! A home fit for royalty, but right here in Florida!



ACT II

CARRIE AND HASTINGS: A grand vision, Mr. Flagler! What do you have in mind?

HENRY FLAGLER: I want the finest materials, elegant rooms, and all the newest comforts. Marble floors, tall columns, and a huge ballroom. It must be called Whitehall!

CARRIE AND HASTINGS: *(Eyes wide)* A truly magnificent estate! We will need many workers and the best craftsmen from around the world!

NARRATOR 1: And so, Whitehall began to rise! It took many busy months to build this enormous mansion.

(MARY LILY FLAGLER and GUEST enter, looking around in awe.)

GUEST: Mrs. Flagler, your home is simply astonishing! I've never seen anything like it!



ACT III

YOUNG VISITOR: *(Walking slowly, looking up)* It's so big! And everything sparkles! Are those real gold leaves on the ceiling?

NARRATOR 2: Many parts of Whitehall were decorated to look like gold, reminding us of the “Gilded” Age, where things looked very fancy!

(MAID enters, perhaps carrying a dust cloth or small vase.)

MAID: Excuse me, Mrs. Flagler. The fresh flowers have arrived for the Music Room.

MARY LILY FLAGLER: Excellent, thank you. Please ensure they are perfectly arranged. Our guests appreciate beauty in every detail.



ACT IV: the Finale

NARRATOR 1: In the Gilded Age, homes like Whitehall had amazing new inventions. They even had electricity for lights and a special heating system to keep them warm, even in Florida's cool winter evenings!

HENRY FLAGLER: (*Proudly*) We wanted Whitehall to be a symbol of progress and comfort. A place where every guest feels like they have stepped into a dream.

GUEST: A dream indeed! It's like a palace by the sea.

YOUNG VISITOR: I can't wait to explore more!

NARRATOR 2: And now, you too are ready to explore this amazing piece of history! Get ready for your visit to Whitehall, the Flagler Museum!



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Museum Expectations

HOW SHOULD WE ACT AT THE MUSEUM?





What to Expect:

Whitehall is an old home, so it is different from a modern building. You will see historical artifacts, furniture, and art.



Behavior

BEST PRACTICES IN THE MUSEUM

1. Look with your eyes and listen with your ears: most items in the museum cannot be touched in order to protect history.
Look with your eyes and not your hands.
2. Quiet voices: the museum is a place where others are learning too!
3. It is easy to get lost in the museum so, stay with your group, chaperone, or teacher.
4. Please walk through the museum and remember no food or drink on your tour.



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Post—Visit Activity



Revisiting what we KNOW and WONDER

Remember, before your visit, you came up with what you know and wonder about Henry Flagler and the Gilded age? Now turn and talk about what you learned.

Example: The house had electricity when it was built.
The house has 75 rooms!



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Post—Visit Project

A JOURNEY TO THE GILDED AGE





Activity A: My Whitehall Snapshot

INSTRUCTIONS:

Think about your visit to Whitehall.

What was your absolute favorite part?

What is one thing you learned that surprised or interested you?

NOW YOU GET TO ILLUSTRATE IT!





Activity A: My Whitehall Snapshot

- Grab drawing paper and art supplies.
- Draw a detailed "snapshot" of their chosen moment or learning. It could be a specific room, a piece of furniture, the gardens, a detail they noticed, or even Henry and Mary Lily Flagler doing something they learned about.
- Below your illustration, write a short caption or a sentence or two explaining:

"My favorite part was..."

"I learned that..."

"This image shows..."

- Example Caption: "My favorite part was the Grand Hall because it was so huge and bright, like a palace!" or "I learned that rich people in the Gilded Age changed their clothes many times a day!"



Activity B:

A Postcard from the Gilded Age

INSTRUCTIONS:

"Imagine you are a visitor to Whitehall in the Gilded Age. You've just spent the day here, and you want to send a postcard home to a friend or family member describing your experience!"

NOW YOU GET TO WRITE YOUR POSTCARD!



Activity B:

A Postcard from the Gilded Age



- You will need drawing paper, folded in half, or a pre-printed postcard template.
- Front (Illustration): Draw your favorite part of the museum or one thing you found most interesting (similar to Option A). Make it look like a historical illustration.
- Back (Message): On one side, write a short message (3-5 sentences) describing their visit. Use some of the vocabulary you learned on the tour (e.g., Gilded Age, opulent, grand, ballroom, etiquette). On the other side, draw a stamp and write a pretend address (e.g., "Miss Eleanor Vance, 123 Main Street, New York City, NY").

Example Message: "Dearest Mother, Whitehall is simply grand! We saw the most opulent rooms and even learned a bit about Gilded Age etiquette. I especially loved the Music Room! So much to see. Love, James."



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Thank you for visiting!

COME AGAIN SOON

