

K is for Kansas

exploring Kansas from A to Z

K is for Kansas is full of things to look at,
to touch, to discover.

Exhibit Goals: *K is for Kansas* is designed to: (1) foster a statewide "sense of place" for Kansans whether urban or rural; (2) appeal to elementary-age children and also accommodate multigenerational audiences; and (3) promote exploration and reading while supporting social studies and science standards established by the Kansas Department of Education.

Exhibit Concept: *K is for Kansas* uses an alphabet theme to explore the cultural and natural history of Kansas. The exhibit team chose words representing a Kansas person, place, thing, plant and animal for each letter of the alphabet with one "key" word receiving in-depth interpretation.

Exhibit Components: The exhibit is built of 26 modules consisting of a pair of alphabet blocks. An 18" high block displays the upper and lower case letter of the alphabet, six words beginning with that letter, and the key word. This block functions as the shipping container for a second block which lifts up, swivels and locks into position as if stacked on the base block. The top block features the key word which is interpreted through maps (S for Santa Fe Trail), models (D for dust bowl), hands-on items (H for hognose snake--made of wood with a faux-earth burrow), recorded sound (P for prairie chicken), the real artifact (V for Vornado fan invented in Kansas), or historic photographs (E for Amelia Earhart). The concept of exploring is linked to interactive components such as flippers labeled "pests" and "partners" which visitors lift to learn about G for grasshopper. Similarly, a slider conceals and reveals the definitions and pictures of "harvesting," "threshing" and "combining" on the C for combine block. All words on the base blocks are interpreted in a folding A-B-C booklet.

Exhibit Awards: The 28-page folding *K is for Kansas* A-B-C booklet received First Place in the 2004 American Association of Museums Publications Design Competition and the 2004 Award for Excellence in Publication from Mountain-Plains Museums Association (for content, relevance, and presentation of region-related topic). The complete exhibit project received a 2004 Kansas Museums Association Award for Excellence and a 2006 American Association for State and Local History Award of Merit (their highest award).

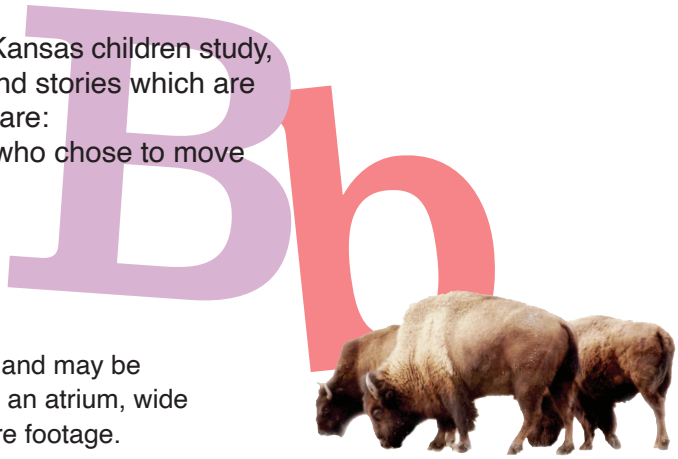
Kauffman Museum, Bethel College, 300 East 27th Street, North Newton, KS 67117
kauffman.org 316.283.1612



Exhibit Design:
The 26 alphabet modules are grouped around an 8'x16' carpet map of Kansas which is marked with major rivers and rainfall regions. The map provides a place to gather as well as a basis for mapping activities. Four photographic murals (fabric 96" high by 48" wide) provide dramatic views of Kansas--rolling prairie hills, an old grain silo, a brilliant sunset, a wheat field. The exhibit components can be arranged to fit exhibit spaces of varying sizes and shapes. Local hosts have individualized their installation--adding a blackboard for visitor feedback or a companion alphabet on local county history.

From the Exhibit Team:
Our alphabet includes the state symbols that all Kansas children study, but also fun and curious facts about the state, and stories which are often overlooked. Our alphabet reflects who we are:

- Kansans who grew up in Kansas and Kansans who chose to move here.
- Kansans who are parents, teachers, scientists, artists and museum professionals.
- Kansans who love Kansas.



Space Requirements: The exhibit is highly modular and may be disbursed within an environment, such as throughout an atrium, wide walkway or a library, and thus requires minimal square footage.

When displayed in a singular room or space it requires a minimum of ~1,000 sq/ft, up to ~2,000 sq. ft. Minimum ceiling height of 8' 6".

Exhibit Fee: $3,000 for up to 12 weeks plus inbound shipping. Additional weekly booking commitments negotiable.

Installation Assistance: Included with the exhibit fee is the time of a Kauffman Museum staff person to assist host venue with installation and take down of the exhibit, with the host venue providing two people to work with the KM staff. Installation usually takes less than half a day, while packing can be done in a few hours.

Environment and Security: Host venue to assure a museum quality exhibit environment, with stable temperature and humidity, appropriate light levels and adequate security.

Crates and Storage: Designed around a cube system, the exhibit comes fully contained. There are no shipping crates to store.

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