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# Fostering Personal Memory through Community Heritage

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Black Creek Pioneer Village  
Toronto, Ontario



Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum,  
Mount Brydges, Ontario

# Proustian Phenomena

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Sophie fofie57 "tea-break" CC by 2.0

# Proustian Phenomena

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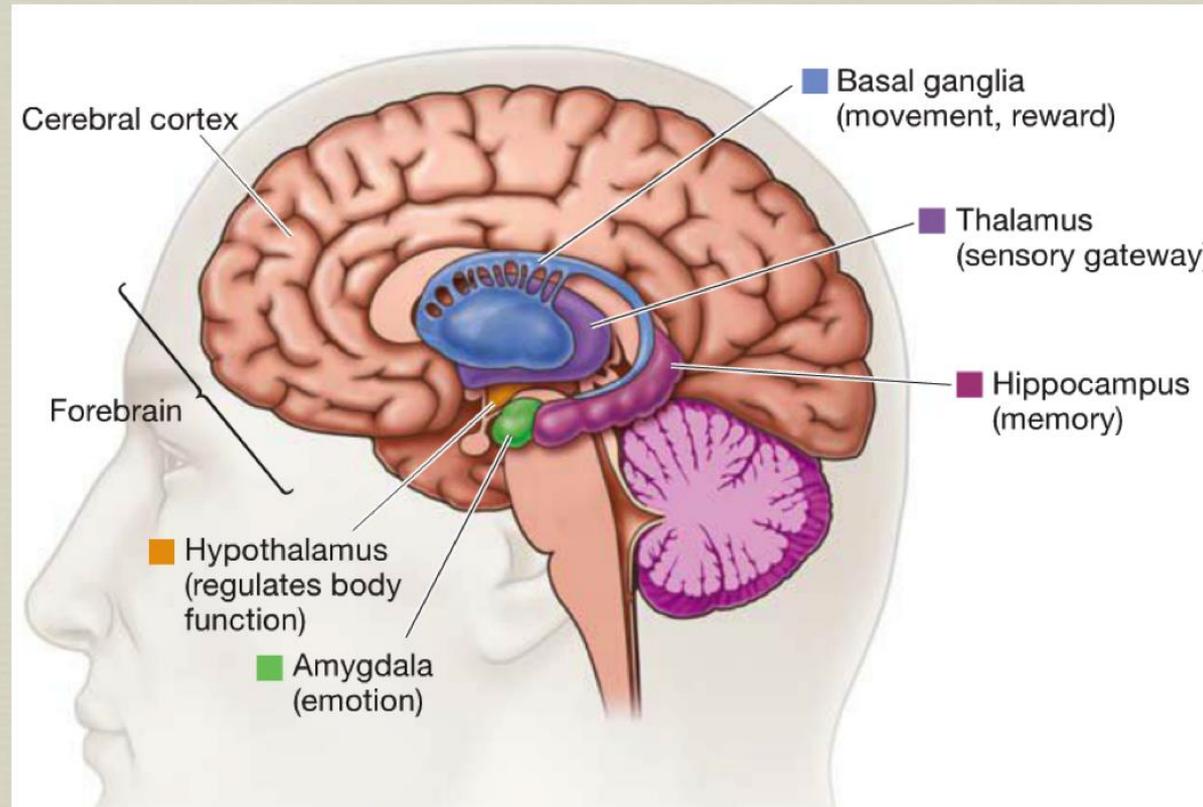
Sophie fofie57 "tea-break" CC by 2.0

# How do memories work?

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# The Limbic System and Memory Function



# Long-term Memory

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- ❧ Adult visitors may experience the Proustian Phenomena
- ❧ The flood of early memories occurring within the heritage space will allow for a broader contextualization of the individual's past
- ❧ Museums should facilitate an environment to share memories and personal experience
  - ❧ Happy memories are shared easily, painful memories may require extra support and time

# Wellington County Museum & Archives Fergus, Ontario



# Hampton Court Palace Kitchens

## London, United Kingdom

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# Skanzen

## Budapest, Hungary

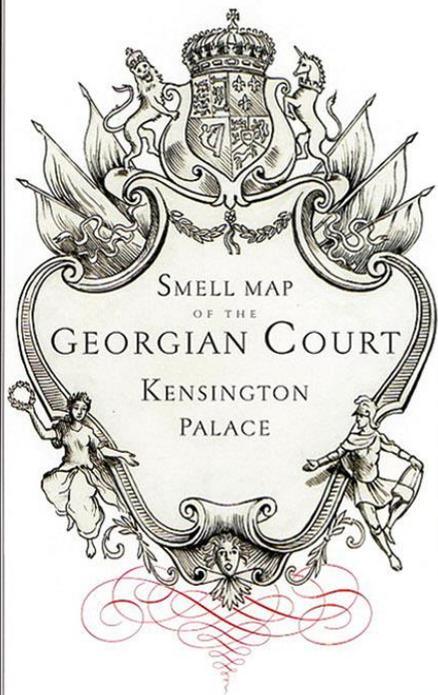
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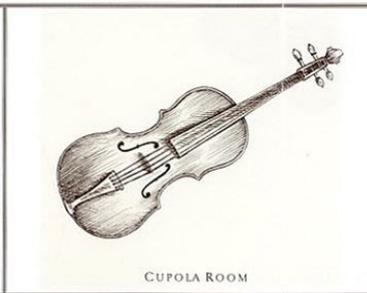
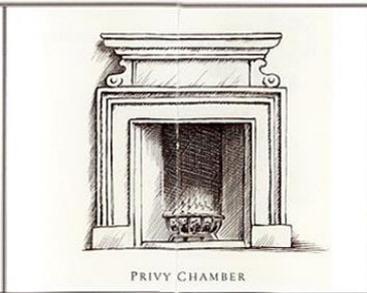
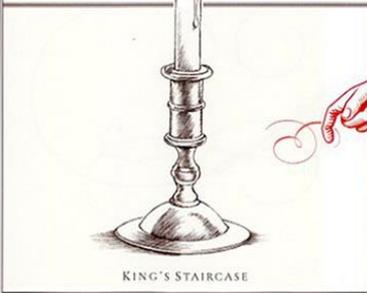
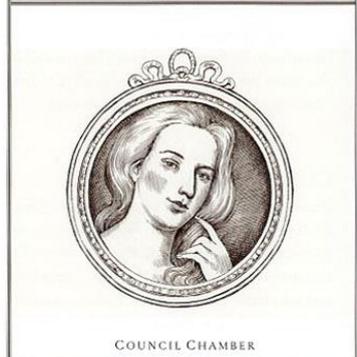
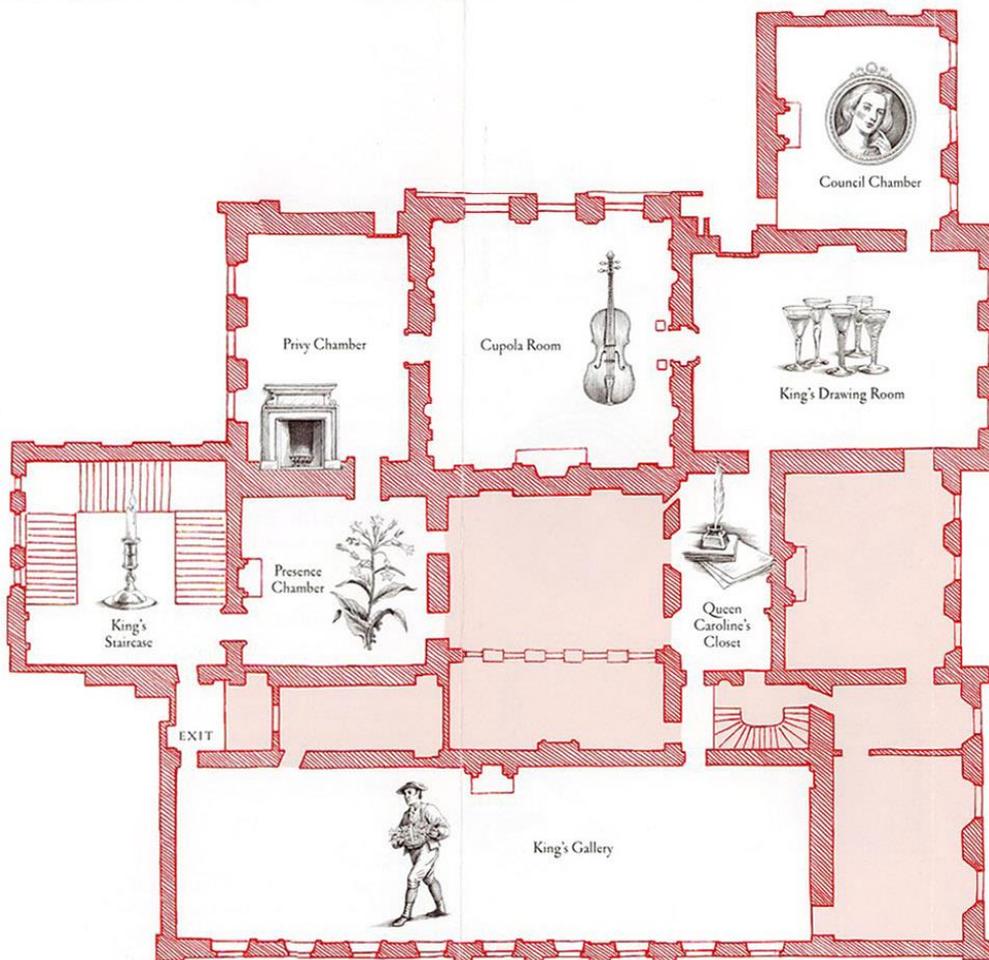
# Eldon House London, Ontario

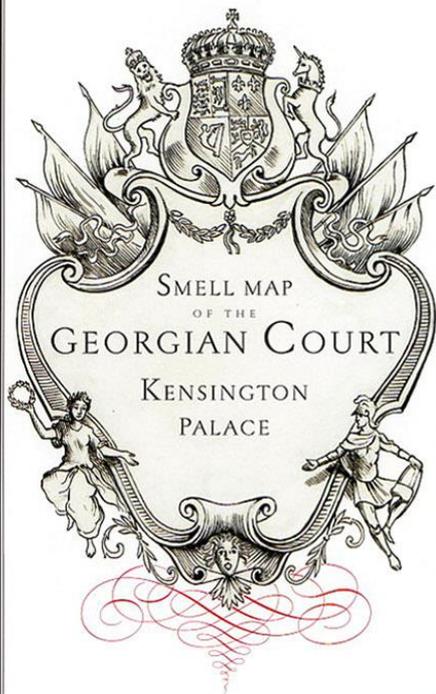
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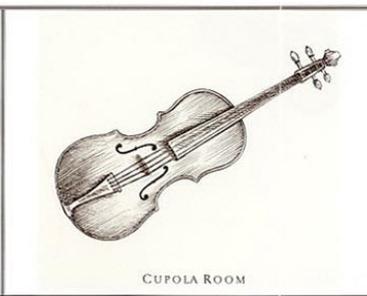
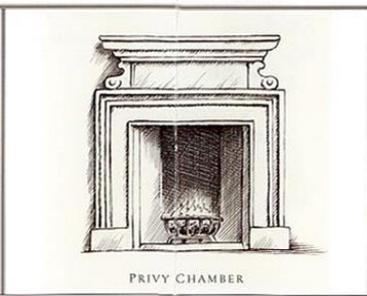
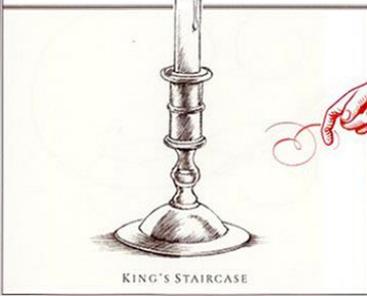
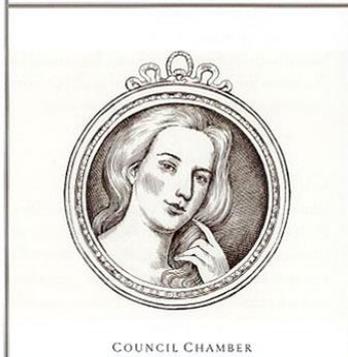
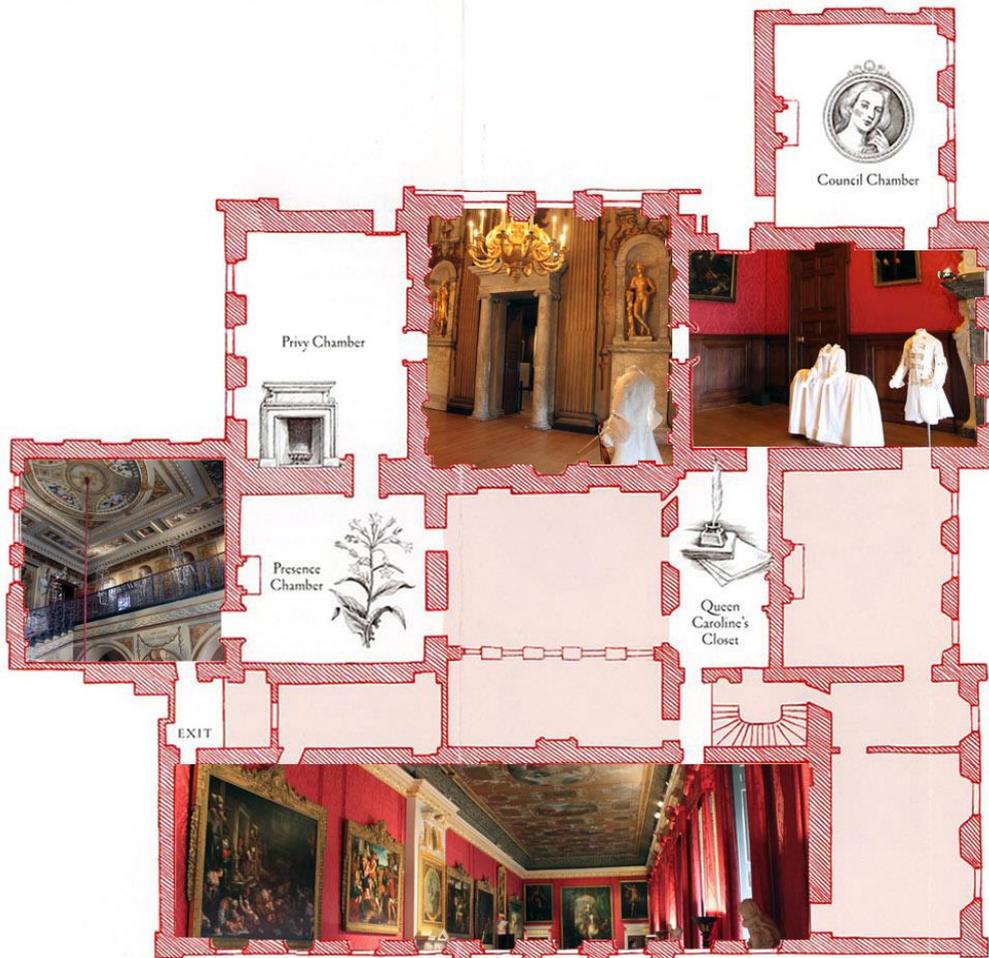


SCRATCH AND SNIFF YOUR WAY AROUND COURT!





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# Link to Childhood Memories

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- ❧ Long-term memories cued by **sound** typically form between 11-25 years old
- ❧ Long-term memories cued by **smell** typically form between 6-10 years old
- ❧ Create children's programming geared to sensory stimuli
  - ❧ Better engagement with material
  - ❧ Facilitates multiple learning styles
  - ❧ Possible create long-term memories that contextualize the person's past.

# Fanshawe Pioneer Village

## London, Ontario

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# Memory Recall

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- ☞ Memories are altered and reconfigured through the process recollection
- ☞ If the museum is involved, it will become embedded in the memory
- ☞ Visitors will come to associate the museum as a portal to their personal past and the greater community's heritage

# A smell out of context

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[W]hen nothing subsists of an old past, after the death of people, after the destruction of things... frailer but more enduring, more immaterial, more persistent... *smell* and *taste* still remain for a long time... remembering... on their almost impalpable droplet, the immense edifice of memory.

-Marcel Proust

*In Search for Lost Time*

*Vol. 1 The way by Swann's*

# Questions and Comments

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