

## Expanding Experiences: Into, Through & Beyond

### Kindergarten

Make the most of your Museum field trip by integrating it into your classroom curriculum. “Expanding Experiences: Into, Through & Beyond” lesson plans provide a sequence of pre-visit, visit, and post-visit activities. Built around grade-appropriate essential questions, these lesson plans use a Museum field trip to activate student prior knowledge, engage minds, and expand thinking.

Essential Question: **What kinds of places become homes?**

Inspirational Work: **Elephants**

Halls: **African Mammal Hall**

Content Standards:

**English/Language Arts Standards**

3.3 Identify characters, settings, and important events

**History/Social Science Standards**

K.4 Students compare and contrast the locations of people, places, and environments and describe their characteristics

**VAPA Standards**

2.2 Respond to a variety of stimuli (e.g. sounds, words, songs, props, and images) with original movements

Materials for your fieldtrip:

**Document K.3**

**Crayons**

**Pencils**

**Clipboards**

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## Pre-Visit

### Into – 10 min

- Print out essential question and picture of elephants (Document K.1)
- Show students picture
- Ask students the following questions and have them share their responses with a partner  
“What do you see in this picture?”  
“Where is the elephant? Describe the place (setting).”

### Through – 20 min

- Introduce and read the essential question aloud
- Explain to students the upcoming fieldtrip’s focus  
“Since we’re going to the Museum tomorrow to look at different animal homes, today we are going to discuss where we live.”
- Talk with students about their homes to activate prior knowledge. Pass out Document K.2  
“Draw a picture of your home and the things that make it special.”
- If desired, have students dictate what is in their drawing to the teacher. Encourage students to speak in complete sentences and add details.

### Beyond – 10 min

- Brainstorm answers to the following question with class. Record a list of responses on easel paper  
“Where do animals make their homes?”

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## Visit

### Into – 10 min

- Students walk around the African Mammal Hall looking at dioramas (with help of chaperones)  
Ask students think about where the animals in the dioramas make their homes.

### Through – 20 min

- Gather students in front of the elephant diorama
- Ask students the following questions  
“What do you see in this diorama?”  
“Describe the place (setting) where the elephant is.”
- Pass out Document K.3, clipboards, and crayons or pencils. Have students draw the background (setting) around the elephant picture

### Beyond – 20 min

- Have students walk slowly around the African Mammal Hall with a partner or small group
- Ask students to look at the other dioramas to discuss where different animals live

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## Post-Visit

### Into - 10 min

- Pull out the “Where do animals make their homes?” list from the Pre-Visit, and add more animal homes learned about at the Museum.  
“What animals did you learn about at the Museum?”

### Through – 30 min

- Provide large sheets of butcher paper/roll paper and art supplies
- Divide students into small groups
- Groups choose an animal they want to create a setting (home) for
- Students paint the background of where their animal lives
- When the background (setting) is dry, hang it in the class

### Beyond - 15 min

- Have students perform short skits in front of classmates. Ask students, in their small groups, to act like their chosen animal in front of the background they created

### Reflection/Assessment

- Print out Document K.4. Have students draw and label a place that is a home