

Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

Gem and Mineral Hall, Grade 1

Gallery Description: More than 2,000 gem and mineral specimens are on view in the Gem and Mineral Hall. The hall features one of the largest gold exhibits in the world that includes over 300 pounds of natural gold, along with gold mining artifacts and other memorabilia. The walk-through Hixon Gem Vault houses such spectacular treasures as exquisite star rubies, emeralds, and sapphires.

Science Activities

- Gather students in front of any display in the Gem and Mineral Hall.

Pick a gem or mineral for the students to find. Give clues to find the gem/mineral by describing the relative position, using two references.

Example: "I'm going to give you a clue to find a gem or mineral. It is *above* the pink rock and *next to* the purple one. Can you find it?"

Ask for student volunteers to give clues for the class to find a gem or mineral by describing the relative position using two references.

Language Arts Activities

- Gather students in front of any display in the hall.

Pick a gem or mineral for the students to observe and asks students the following questions:

"How would this gem or mineral feel if you could touch it? (Smooth, cold, pointy, etc.)"

Have students pick a gem or mineral and ask a partner the same question the teacher asked.

Math Activities

- Gather students in the back room of the hall.

Pick a gem or mineral and discuss how it is a three dimensional object. Then describe its shape, number of corners, number of sides, and size.

Have students walk around in pairs. Pairs take turns picking a gem or mineral and describing the shape, number of corners, number of sides, and size.

These activities support the following 1st Grade California State Standards:

Science

Investigation and Experimentation 4d: Describe the relative position of objects by using two references (e.g., above and next to, below and left of).

Language Arts

Speaking Applications 2.4: Provide descriptions with careful attention to sensory detail.

Math

Measurement and Geometry 2.1: Identify, describe, and compare triangles, rectangles, squares, and circles, including the faces of three-dimensional objects.

Measurement and Geometry 2.2: Classify familiar plane and solid objects by common attributes, such as color, position, shape, size, roundness, or number of corners, and explain which attributes are being used for classification.

Measurement and Geometry 2.3: Give and follow directions about location.

Measurement and Geometry 2.4: Arrange and describe objects in space by proximity, position, and direction (e.g., near, far, below, above, up, down, behind, in front of, next to, left or right of).