

Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

Gem and Mineral Hall, Grade 3

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.

Language Arts Activities

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

Ask students to find their favorite gem or mineral.

Ask for student volunteers to explain why they've chosen this gem or mineral and use at least 3 specific details to describe it.

Math Activities

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

Pick a gem or mineral that displays various angles. Discuss how the sides of the object can create right, acute, and obtuse angles.

In pairs, have students walk around and take turns picking a gem or mineral and describing angles they observe within it.

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

Pick a gem or mineral that has more than one shape. Discuss how it is a three dimensional object. Then point out the different shapes that create it.

In pairs, have students walk around and take turns picking a gem or mineral and describing the shapes they observe (e.g. cube, rectangular solid, sphere, prism, pyramid, cone, cylinder).

These activities support the following 3rd Grade California State Standards:

Language Arts

Listening and Speaking 1.7: Use clear and specific vocabulary to communicate ideas and establish the tone.

Math

Measurement and Geometry 2.4: Identify right angles in geometric figures or in appropriate objects and determine whether other angles are greater or less than a right angle.

Measurement and Geometry 2.5: Identify, describe, and classify common three-dimensional geometric objects (e.g., cube, rectangular solid, sphere, prism, pyramid, cone, cylinder).

Measurement and Geometry 2.6: Identify common solid objects that are the components needed to make a more complex solid object.