

## Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

### Gem and Mineral Hall, Grade K

*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 the gold display.
  - Have students observe what gold looks like.
  - Talk about the uses of gold in every day life. (e.g. jewelry, dentistry, machinery. . . )
  - Ask students if they have seen gold and where they have seen gold.

#### Language Arts Activities

- Gather students in front of any display in the hall.
  - Ask students to describe what colors, sizes, and shapes they see.
  - Have students use the following sentence structure to share their observations:  
"I see a green, shiny rock that is pointy."

#### Math Activities

- Gather students in the back room of the hall.
  - Have students walk around and observe the shapes of the gems and minerals.
  - Ask students to share what shapes they see.

*These activities support the following **Kindergarten** California State Standards:*

#### Science

Earth Science 3c: Students know how to identify resources from Earth that are used in everyday life and understand that many resources can be conserved.

#### Language Arts

Vocabulary Development 1.18: Describe common objects and events in both general and specific language.  
Speaking Applications 2.1: Describe people, places, things (e.g., size, color, shape), locations, and actions.

#### Math

Measurement and Geometry 2.0: Students identify common objects in their environment and describe the geometric features.