

## Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

### Mammal Halls, Grade 1

*Gallery Description: The Museum's three, world famous Mammal Halls show African and North American mammals in their natural environments. Many of these mammals are shy, and some are nocturnal, so these scientifically accurate dioramas provide the only way most of us can get close to these creatures in their natural habitats.*

#### Science Activities

- Talk with students about what animals need to survive (food, water, and shelter). Ask students to look at where each mammal lives and discuss how the mammal depends on its environment to survive. (For example, if there is water in the diorama, maybe the mammal eats fish. If a mammal lives in brown grass, maybe it hides from predators in the grass.)
- Go to walrus diorama (N. American Mammal Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) and ask students how they think the walrus gets to the fish under the ice. (They use their tusks to break the ice.)
- Go to the elk diorama (N. American Mammal Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) and notice the elk's horns. Ask the students how they think the elk uses its horns. (For protection.)
- Go to the seal and or sea lion diorama (N. American Mammal Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> floor) and notice the seals flippers. Ask the students why seals/sea lions need flippers. (They swim in the water.)
- Focus on each mammal's teeth and have students determine whether the mammal eats plants, meat, or both.

#### Language Arts Activities

- Prompt students to provide descriptions of each diorama with sensory detail. "If I was in the diorama I would hear...I would taste...I would see..."

#### Arts Activities

- Ask each student to pick their favorite mammal in the hall and act out how the animal moves.

*These activities support the following 1<sup>st</sup> Grade California State Standards:*

#### Science

Life Science 2a: Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places.

Life Science 2b: Students know both plants and animals need water, animals need food, and plants need light.

Life Science 2c: Students know animals eat plants or other animals for food and may also use plants or even other animals for shelter and nesting.

Life Science 2d: Students know how to infer what animals eat from the shapes of their teeth (e.g., sharp teeth: eats meat; flat teeth: eats plants).

**Language Arts**

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

**VAPA**

Dance 2.1: Use improvisation to discover movements in response to a specific movement problem.