

Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

Mammal Halls, Grade 2

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

- Find a diorama that has parents and offspring. Prompt students to compare and contrast the parents and their young. Ask students if the babies look the same or different? Will they change as they grow?

Language Arts Activities

- Ask students to look at a diorama and predict what would have happened before, during, and after the current scene. Have students use the following sentence structures:
 - “Before. . .”
 - “Right now. . .”
 - “After this. . .”

Arts Activities

- Have students pick a mammal and think of a scene that involves their mammal. Ask students to describe the scene while they act it out, showing a variety of ways the animal can move. For example, a student might describe and act out the following: “The bear is walking and sees its prey. It goes up on its hind legs, and then goes back down, and chases its prey.”

These activities support the following 2nd Grade California State Standards:

Science

Life Science 2a: Students know that organisms reproduce offspring of their own kind and that the offspring resemble their parents and one another.

Life Science 2b: Students know the sequential stages of life cycles are different for different animals, such as butterflies, frogs, and mice.

Life Science 2c: Students know many characteristics of an organism are inherited from the parents. Some characteristics are caused or influenced by the environment.

Language Arts

Listening and Speaking 1.7: Recount experiences in a logical sequence.

VAPA

Dance 1.1: Show a variety of combinations of basic locomotor skills.