

Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

Mammal Halls, Grade 5

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

- As you walk through a hall, have students identify where the mammal's water source is each diorama. For example, the bison drinks from the river while the polar bear eats the snow.

Social Studies Activities

- In the North American Mammal Hall (1st or 2nd floor), what are some mammals that Louis and Clark would have encountered on their exploration?

Language Arts Activities

- Tell students you are going to say some facts and opinions about a diorama. Have students give a thumbs up for a fact, and a thumbs down when they hear an opinion. For example:
 "A walrus is the coolest mammal." (opinion)
 "A walrus uses tusks to break ice to get to fish." (fact)

These activities support the following 5th Grade California State Standards:

Science

Life Science 3d: Students know the amount of fresh water located in rivers, lakes, underground sources, and glaciers is limited and its availability can be extended by recycling and decreasing the use of water.

Social Science

5.2 Students trace the routes of early explorers and describe the early explorations of the Americas.

Language Arts

Reading Comprehension 2.5: Distinguish facts, supported inferences, and opinions in text.