

Teachable Moments: A Guide for Your Fieldtrip

Mammal Halls, Grade K

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

- Choose two dioramas in a Mammal Hall. Help students compare and contrast the physical features of the mammals in these two dioramas. Focus on color, fur, teeth, claws . . .
- Have students look at where the mammal lives and guess what the mammal eats. (For example, if there is water in the diorama, maybe the mammal eats fish.)
- Ask students to look at the mammal's body and guess how it moves. (For example, a mammal with four long legs can probably run quickly.)

Language Arts Activities

- Look at all the dioramas in a Mammal Hall. As you view each diorama, have students use the following sentence frame to describe each mammal, focusing on adjectives and body parts.

"I see a _____ with _____."
For example "I see a brown walrus with pointy tusks."

Arts Activities

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

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

Science

Life Science 2a: Students know how to observe and describe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of plants and animals (e.g., seed-bearing plants, birds, fish, insects).

Life Science 2c: Students know how to identify major structures of common plants and animals (e.g., stems, leaves, roots, arms, wings, legs).

Language Arts

Reading 1.17: Identify and sort common words in basic categories (e.g., colors, shapes, foods).

Reading 1.18: Describe common objects and events in both general and specific language.

VAPA

Dance 1.2 Perform basic locomotor skills.