

Education Techniques in the Museum

Throughout our exhibits, educational tools are used to illustrate concepts or communicate messages about our natural world. These include

- Chronology
- Comparison/contrast
- Classification

Reinforcement in the Museum

Reading text information and observing exhibit organization encourage the development of

- language arts skills
- comprehension skills
- critical thinking skills

Discussions from exhibit observations encourage

- self-expression
- respect for the opinions of others
- appreciation for museums and other institutions of learning

Students learn to recognize

- changes in type size or color on labels to identify key ideas
- patterns in nature and displays
- changes in setting and mood

Discovery is encouraged through

- hands-on displays
- listening centers
- scent stations

Inquiry in the Museum

Our exhibits encourage exploration and discovery by stirring the imagination and moving students to ask questions.

Through observation, students make connections, formulate questions, and analyze learned information. The inquiry

process in the museum enables students to learn in creative and fun ways.

Below is an *Inquiry-based Lesson Plan* for your tour. An activity sheet on the reverse encourages students to recall information, make connections to what is observed, develop new interpretations, and evaluate their experience.

Science at the Museum

Students should be able to

1. Use skills to conduct scientific investigation: *observing, classifying, analyzing*
2. Think critically and logically to make inferences and describe relationships between evidence and explanations.

Activities/Methods

1. Teacher will introduce students to the concept of a museum.
2. Students will use the museum activity sheet to investigate museum exhibits

Resource Materials

Museum activity sheet

Assessment

Teacher Observation
Classwork (activity)
Oral responses

Before you visit,

- introduce your students to the concept of a museum
- ask students to develop museum analogies
- share personal collections
- collect objects



Anniston Museum of Natural History

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Educator's Field Guide

**to the
Anniston Museum of Natural History**

*Teaching strategies and
objectives to excite and
challenge students*

Our exhibits explore a range of science topics including:

Earth Science *Rocks and minerals, fossilization, weather, effects of weather, geographic diversity*

Life Science *Structure and function in plants and animals, diversity, adaptation, interdependence, conservation*

Physical Science *Energy (Solar)*

Open-air exhibits designed to challenge observation skills and promote critical thinking enable students to not only examine these topics, but discover new ways of looking at them.

Inquiring Minds On Exhibit



At the Exhibit Title Station:

From reading the title, what do you think the exhibit is about?

How are pictures, colors, or special lettering used to help you get an idea about the exhibit?

What do you already know about the topic of this exhibit?

As you tour the exhibit:

How do the objects or animals you see relate to the title of the exhibit?

Select a favorite object or animal. How does it fit into the theme or main idea of the exhibit?

Does the text panel or label help you understand your object? Why are some letters larger or colored differently on the label?

After seeing the entire exhibit:

How is the exhibit arranged? Is it by color, time, group, or size? Does it compare one object against another?

What idea or message is the exhibit telling you?

Are sounds, colors, smells, or lights used to highlight displayed objects? Why?

How does the exhibit make you feel about the topic or the objects and animals you see?

Where could you find more information about the topic or the objects?

