

Working with Students in a Gallery

Teacher talk

Tell the students about the gallery.

Ask leading questions and get the students to tell you about the gallery.

Student talk

These are some strategies to encourage students to explore and talk about the gallery.

- What is new to you?
- What can you find that you already know about?
- What would you like to know more about?
- Find items that show particular qualities:
 - Items that can be used for...?
 - Items that are examples of...?
 - Items that could be improved by...?

Assign tasks

Consider other possibilities than just worksheets. Ask students to:

- Develop an interview between scientists/explorers/conservationists/historians. Present this back at school.
- Design a better exhibit. Take notes at the Museum and draw plans back at school.
- Write an essay. Take notes at the Museum and write the essay at school.
- Look at the exhibits and then discuss 'What action do we take to solve these problems?'
- Make a model of an animal, the process of fossilisation, an Antarctic explorers' equipment, etc. Research at the museum and construct the model at school.
- Design an advertisement to promote the gallery.
- Write a proposal to seek sponsorship for the gallery.

Language resource

The Museum is a valuable resource for developing students' literacy.

- How are exhibits arranged? What is the logic?
- How are headings and sub-headings used?
- Are there any numbers or keys to specimens?
- Should the objects be viewed in a particular order? How do we know?
- What strategies do we need for unknown words in labels?
- How do diagrams and maps work in the gallery?

Teaching strategies

The following activities can be done without worksheets.

- Report on something we did in class that links to this exhibition.
- Look for evidence to support the statement...
- In the past 50 years how might this gallery have changed?

- In 100 years' time, how might it be different?
- Make a "trivia quiz" for classmates using this gallery.
- How many examples of ... can you find?
- Try a DeBono "hat" excursion (red = feelings, black = problems, etc)
- Thinkers' Keys:
 - If the answer is a cheetah, what might the question be?
 - Reverse Key "What cannot use trees?"
 - What would happen if... (eg. hair had no pigment)
- Record your visit using only diagrams and pictures.
- Draw a flow chart show to show the process of....
- Draw a mind map of what this exhibition teaches.
- Use group work to maximise discussion and learning.
- Tell other students what you have learned in the Museum.

This Outreach Education information is made possible by the partnership between the South Australian Museum and the Department of Education and Child Development. Outreach Education is a team of seconded teachers, managed through the Open Access College, who are based in public institutions.