



Teachable Moments

1st Grade

Duration
10-20 minutes

Location
Gem & Mineral Hall

Standards

S+E Practices

3,4,6,8

CCSS

L.5.c

CA State

- Investigation and Experimentation 4d
- Speaking Applications 2.4
- Measurement and Geometry 2.1
- Measurement and Geometry 2.2
- Measurement and Geometry 2.3
- Measurement and Geometry 2.4

The Gem and Mineral Hall

Displaying 2,000+ specimens, explore everything from sedimentary to metamorphic, meteorites, precious stones and even gold! Learn more at: www.nhm.org/explore-exhibits/permanent-exhibits/gems-minerals

Science

- In any area in the hall, pick a specimen and ask students to find it after you describe its relative position using two references. For example “It is above the pink rock and next to the purple one.”
- Have students repeat this exercise with the whole group or in pairs.

Language Arts

- In the Touch Specimens area of the hall, pick a specimen for students to observe, asking them to articulate their observations, including its color, shape, texture or even temperature.
- Repeat this exercise in pairs (you may choose this round to have students use any specimen in the hall, not just Touch Specimens).

Math

- In Gemstones and their Origins, pick a specimen and discuss how it is a three dimensional object. Describe its shape, number of corners, number of sides, and size.
- Have student repeat this exercise, sharing with a group or in pairs.

