



Teachable Moments

1st Grade

Duration

10-15 minutes

Location

Mammal Halls

Standards

[NGSS](#)

1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, LS1.A,
LS1.B, LS1.D

[S+E Practices](#)

1, 2, 3, 7, 8

[CCSS ELA](#)

SL.1.a, SL.4, L.5.c

[CA State](#)

Life Science 2a.b.c.d

Language Arts Speaking
Applications 2.4

VAPA

Dance 2.1

Mammal Halls

The Mammal Halls show a variety of African and North American animals in their natural environments, so you and your students can glimpse gazelles or peek at polar bears without ever having to leave Los Angeles! For more about these exhibits visit: www.nhm.org/explore-exhibits/permanent-exhibits.../african-mammals or [/north-american-mammals](http://www.nhm.org/explore-exhibits/permanent-exhibits.../north-american-mammals)

Science

- Pick a diorama and introduce students to what animals need to survive: food, water and shelter. Then have students observe the diorama, and as a group discuss where in the environment the animals might be getting these survival needs.
- If time, pick an animal with a unique characteristic (for example antlers, horns, spines, notable fur or body shape) and ask students, “How might this animal use its _____ to survive?” Follow up answers with “What do you see that makes you say that?”

Language Arts

- Have students quietly observe a diorama for a few moments, then ask them to close their eyes and imagine they are in the scene (alternately, you may ask them to imagine they are the animal in the diorama).
- Then, ask them to describe what they might hear, see, feel or taste. Encourage descriptive language.

Arts

- In teams or as individuals, ask students to free-explore the hall for a few minutes, and pick their favorite mammal and carefully observe it and (if with a partner) discuss how they would act it out.
- Call students back together and have them each perform their animal, while the rest of the class tries to guess the animal.