Teachable Moments
2nd Grade

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 any area of the hall, gather students and ask them to find a favorite specimen.
- Ask them to articulate three details about the specimen to explains why it’s their favorite to the whole group or a partner.

Math
- In Gemstones and their Origins, pick a specimen that has more than one shape and discuss how it is a three dimensional object—pointing out the different shapes including the number of corners, sides and faces, edges and vertices.
- Have student repeat this exercise, sharing with a group or in pairs.