



Teachable Moments

2nd Grade

Duration

15-30 minutes

Location

Gem & Mineral Hall

Standards

- Physical Science 1a
- Listening and Speaking 1.4
- Measurement and Geometry 2.1
- Measurement and Geometry 2.2

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 explain 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.

