



# Teachable Moments

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### Duration

10-15 minutes

### Location

Mammal Halls

### Standards

#### [NGSS](#)

LS1.A, LS3.A, LS3.B

#### [S+E Practices](#)

2,3, 7

#### [CCSS](#)

SL.1.a, SL.4

#### [CA State](#)

Life Science 2a.c

#### ELA

Listening and Speaking  
1.7

#### VAPA

Dance 1.1

## 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](http://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

- When you see a diorama that has parents and offspring in it, ask students to carefully observe the family. Then ask: In what ways are the juveniles (young) the same as their parents? In what ways are they different?
- As optional challenge, see if students can identify characteristics that are inherited vs. caused or changed by the environment.

## Language Arts

- Ask students to observe a diorama for a few moment, then ask: What might be happening in this moment? After a few ideas, ask: what might have happened before/after this moment?
- It may be helpful to model this using these sentence structures:
  - “Before...”
  - “Right now...”
  - “After this...”

## Arts

- In groups or as individuals, have students pick a mammal in the hall they enjoy looking at. Have them observe the diorama for a time, and brainstorm a scene that involves the mammal moving in many different ways.
- Have students act out the scene, while narrating it descriptively. For example, while acting this out a student may say: “The bear is walking, then sees its prey. It rears up on its hind legs, takes a mighty swipe, then drops back down and chases its prey.”