



# Teachable Moments

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### Duration

10-15 minutes

### Location

Mammal Halls

### Standards

#### [NGSS](#)

3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 3-LS3-2,  
3-LS3-2, 3-ESS2-2, LS2.C,  
LS4.A, LS4.C

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

2, 3, 6, 7

#### [CCSS ELA](#)

SL.1.b.d, SL.2

#### [CA State](#)

Life Science 3a.b.d

Listening and Speaking  
1.11

Social Studies 3.1

## 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

- Ask students to identify three dioramas with different habitats. Observe each diorama and ask, what might this animal have to help it survive in this habitat? For example, a seal might have flippers to help it swim in the ocean. Briefly discuss that organisms have *adaptations* to help them survive in different environments.
- Next ask: what might happen to the animals in these dioramas if their environment changes? For example, what might happen if the habitat changed from a forest to a grassland? Briefly discuss that when an environment changes, organisms must adapt (evolve) or move to survive. If they can't do this, they may go extinct.

## Language Arts

- Tell students you are going to say some facts and opinions about a diorama. Have students give a thumbs up for a fact, and a thumbs down when they hear an opinion. For example:

*“Musk Ox are the most awesome mammals”* (OPINION)

*“Musk Ox are related to goats”* (FACT)

## Social Studies

- In the African Mammal Hall most dioramas on the left highlight tropical habitats and most on the right are arid. Have students compare and contrast the plant life they observe on each side, using the location maps in the exhibit to compare and contrast the physical regions of each habitat.