



# Teachable Moments

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Duration**  
15-30 minutes

**Location**  
Gem & Mineral Hall

**Standards**  
[CCSS ELA](#)

L.5.a, SL.1.b.c.d

[CA State](#)

Earth Science a. b.  
Literary Response 3.5  
Measurement and  
Geometry 3.0

### 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](http://www.nhm.org/explore-exhibits/permanent-exhibits/gems-minerals)

#### Science

- In front of the Rock Cycle display, show students the panel for each type of rock while explaining the differences between them.
- Give students time to study the panels and ask guiding questions to help them bring in and expand on prior knowledge about processes that form each kind of rock.
- As a group or in pairs, ask students explain/summarize how a rock transforms from one type to another.

#### Language Arts

- In Gemstones and their Origins, pick a gem or mineral and describe it using a simile and a metaphor. For example “The gem is as blue as the sky.” and “The gem’s sides are intersecting highways.”
- Have the students repeat this exercise in pairs.

#### Math

- In any area of the hall, point out gems or minerals that have parallel and perpendicular lines.
- Have the students repeat this exercise in pairs.

