



Teachable Moments

5th Grade

Duration
15-30 minutes

Location
Gem & Mineral Hall

- Standards**
- Earth Science 5b
 - Work Analysis 1.5
 - Measurement and Geometry 2.0
 - Measurement and Geometry 2.3

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

- Ask students to locate a rock in the hall that is not from this planet
- Once they have located a meteorite, discuss the origin of the rock and how it got to Earth.
- Have students create a simple movement that models how the meteorite got to Earth.

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, rectangles and triangles.
- Ask the students which tool they would use to best draw the specimen accurately to size. For example, straight edge, ruler, compass, protractor, etc.)

