



Teachable Moments

Kindergarten

Duration

10-15 minutes

Location

Mammal Halls

Standards

[NGSS](#)

LS1-1, LS1.A, LS1.D,
LS4.D

[S+E Practices](#)

2, 4, 7, 8

[CCSS ELA](#)

SL.1.a, SL.4, SL.6, L.1.f,
L.5.c, L.6

[CA State](#)

Life Science 2a, 2c
Language Arts
Reading 1.17, 1.18
VAPA
Dance 1.2

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 or [/north-american-mammals](http://www.nhm.org/explore-exhibits/permanent-exhibits.../north-american-mammals)

Science

- Choose two dioramas in any of the Mammal Halls. Lead students in observing the physical features of the mammals in these two dioramas. Help them identify anatomy such as arms, legs, tails, etc. while using things like color, fur, teeth, claws to compare and contrast the two animals. You may choose to do this activity using the plant life as well.
- Next, using their observations, ask students to try and figure out what the mammal eats, and how it might live. Use clues from its environment to help support ideas. For example, if there is water in the habitat, maybe the mammal eats fish. If they have claws, maybe it is to catch food or keep itself safe.

Language Arts

- Look at all the dioramas in a Mammal Hall. As you view each diorama, have students use the sentence frame “I see a _____ with _____” to describe each mammal. Focus on using adjectives with anatomy, for example “I see a brown walrus with pointy tusks.”
- As an extension, ask a student to describe the animal without naming it, and have other students try and figure out which animal he/she is talking about.

Arts

- Have each student pick their favorite mammal in the hall and act out how the animal moves.