

MUSEUM EXPLORATION GUIDE

AT A GLANCE

Students will record their observations and experiences at the Museum and do a follow-up writing exercise in the classroom.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- Have a meaningful museum experience.
- Connect their museum experience to the classroom.
- Learn key characteristics of science.

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVELS:

- 3-6

PACE YOURSELF:

- 30 minutes in the classroom *before* your field trip
- 30 minutes in the Museum *during* your field trip
- 30 minutes in the classroom *after* your field trip



ADVANCE PREPARATION

1. Print a Museum Exploration Guide for each student.
2. Print and assemble an extra guide to use as an example for students.



MATERIALS

Per group:

- Copy of the Museum Exploration Guide for each student and one for the teacher
- Pencils
- Staplers
- Scissors



ACTIVITY

Part One: In the Classroom Before Your Field Trip

1. Tell students they will record their observations, experiences and thoughts while they explore the Museum.
2. Briefly review definitions on each page of the guide. Some definitions may be difficult for students with no prior knowledge of content.
3. Pass out materials and give them time to assemble their Exploration Guides. They will cut on the dotted lines and staple pages together. **IMPORTANT:** Staple the pages together in numerical order.

Part Two: At the Museum During Your Field Trip

1. Make sure each chaperone understands what to do. Emphasize the importance of having students complete the Exploration Guide.
2. Ensure each student has their Exploration Guide and a pencil.
3. Walk around with students as they explore the Museum. Make sure they are recording their observations and experiences on each page.
4. When everyone is done, collect pencils and Exploration Guides to ensure they are not lost or dropped in the Museum.

Part Three: In the Classroom After Your Field Trip

1. Give each student their Exploration Guide and a classroom worksheet if there is one.
2. Have students use the observations in their Exploration Guide to complete the writing exercise.
3. Discuss all definitions and to review everything they learned.

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DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

- If students need more space, they can write on the back of each page of their guide.
- Print enough Exploration Guides for each chaperone and have them fill one out as well. Indicate the importance of the guides to the chaperones so that they will emphasize the importance of completing the activity to the students.

