



Children's
Discovery
Museum
of San Jose

Visit Guide: Kindergarten



California Content Standards

Kindergarten

History-Social Science: K.3

English-language Arts:

Reading 1.17, 1.18;

Writing 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4;

Written and Oral Language Conventions 1.1, 1.2;

Listening and Speaking 1.2, 2.1



What is a Museum?

Objective:

Children will learn the definition of a museum and its place in our community.

What to Do:

1. Show children the outside shot of the Children's Discovery Museum (Student Sheet 1). Ask children, "Who has been to the Museum?"
2. Tell the children that a museum is a place where people can go to view collections and interact with exhibits that teach them something about the world in which we live. In a museum, objects are grouped together because they have something in common.
3. Show children the floor layout of the Museum (Student Sheet 2) and lead children in a discussion about the various exhibits they have visited. As the children talk, make a point of noting why items have been grouped together. (For example, the garden is a group of plants; Secrets of Circles is all about circles; etc.)
4. Have children use Student Sheet 3, "My Museum Collection," to draw and write about a collection of objects.

What you'll need:

- Transparency of Student Sheet 1 – outside shot of Children's Discovery Museum
Transparency of Student Sheet 2 – floor layout of Children's Discovery Museum
- Copies of Student Sheet 3 – "My Museum Collection," one per student
- Overhead projector

Assessment:

Save the student sheets as examples of children's ability to categorize.

Extensions:

- Have children brainstorm a list of other places in the community where they can go to learn something new (ex. libraries, other museums, working farms, etc.).
- Have children bring collections from home (rocks, buttons, stuffed animals, etc.) to share with the class.



Collecting Observations

What to Do:

While children are touring the Museum have them take note of the "collections" they see by drawing pictures, writing descriptions, or taking pictures of some of the exhibits, artwork, and groups of objects.

What you'll need:

- Necklace journals – one per student (See Necklace Journal Instructions.)
- Pencil and/or crayons – at least one per student
- (optional) Camera(s)



Creating a Museum

Objective:

Children create a museum inside the classroom.

What to Do:

1. Choose a topic for the class museum. The topic can be related to something you are currently studying (patterns, plants, etc.), the school, the natural world, or the children themselves (especially if you have had them bring collections from home.)
2. Spend some time with the children brainstorming and collecting representative objects. For example, a museum about your school might need a pencil, crayons, a school mascot, books, pictures of teachers, etc.
3. After the objects have been collected, spend some time with the children sorting and grouping the objects. For example, pencils and crayons could be grouped together as "writing tools."
4. Assign each student or pair of students to "curate" an exhibit by taking one group of objects, creating a picture and short description of them, and displaying them somewhere in the room.

Assessment:

Photograph, or simply record, evidence of children's ability to sort and categorize objects.

Extensions:

- Invite families to visit your museum and have the children be guides, taking their families through each exhibit.