

**A KID'S GUIDE TO
EXPLORING
MUSEUMS WITH A
GROWNUP**

Adventure awaits!



PLAN YOUR VISIT

Help your grownup pick a museum to visit. Think about what you kinds of things you like to do and see.

IF YOU LOVE

Dinosaurs, fossils, minerals

Drawing, painting, working with clay

Animals

Learning about things that happened a long time ago

Science experiments

Pretending, building, climbing

YOU MIGHT WANT TO VISIT

a natural history museum

an art museum or sculpture park

a zoo or aquarium

a historic site or living history museum

a science museum or science center

a children's museum

Do you love ALL of these things? That's great! Just pick one for today and pick another one next time.

PACK YOUR BAGS

Here are a few things you might want to bring with you:



This guide!



A pencil



A clipboard



A snack and water bottle



A small backpack or tote bag to put everything in

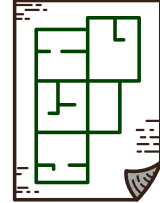


Ask your grownup to check the museum's website to make sure these things are allowed inside. If not, you can leave them in the coat room or the car for when you need them.

When you arrive

TAKE A MAP

When you get to the entrance desk, ask for a map of the museum. Pick three or four things you want to see. Why only three or four? If you stick to a small number, you can look at each thing for a long time instead of being rushed.



REMEMBER A FEW RULES

At museums that display art, specimens, or historical objects, you won't be able to touch most of the things that are on display. Touching objects that are old or fragile can damage them. Even these museums have some some things that you **can** touch! These will usually have a sign or special symbol so you know when you're allowed. Ask your grownup for help finding them. At a children's museum or science museum, you can touch and interact with most of the displays.



Please touch!

A symbol similar to this will tell you if you can touch. Otherwise, hands off, please!

BE YOURSELF

Some people think you have to whisper at museums. You don't! Feel free to be yourself. But be considerate of other people so that they can enjoy the museum too. In general, follow the same expectations that you have at school: no yelling, running, skipping, or other behavior that might disturb other people.

GET READY

Hang up your coat, visit the restroom, take your supplies out of your bag or backpack, and go to your first stop.



GET TALKING

Try one of the activities below to help you really look at the artifact or artwork. Do a different one at each of the three to five stops on your visit.



SEE, THINK, WONDER

Look at the object for about one full minute (ask your grownup to keep time so you can concentrate)



what do you **see**?



what do you **think** about what you see?



what do you **wonder** about what you see?



MIRRORS AND WINDOWS

Look at the space all around you. Find something that could be an imaginary mirror or window....

mirror



Something that reminds you of yourself when you see it -- for any reason! It could be a painting of a person who looks like you, or your favorite animal at the zoo.

window



Something that shows you a glimpse into another place, time, or way of thinking. It could be an artwork or animal from another place, or an object that makes you consider something you've never thought about before.



ASK QUESTIONS

Museums are some of the best places to use your imagination. Think of some interesting questions or challenges for your grownup. Below are a few ideas; use these, and make up some of your own!

If this painting could make a noise, what would it sound like?

If this sculpture came to life, what do you think it would eat?

Which of these animal habitats would you want to live in? Why?

Which object in this gallery would you want as a birthday gift? Why?

Find an object that scares you, one that makes you laugh, one that relaxes you, and one that excites you. Explain your choices.

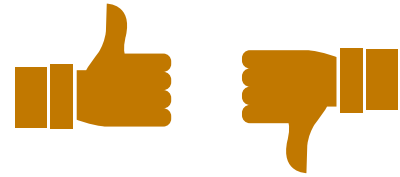
funny

If the underlined words don't quite describe what you're looking at, feel free to use another word instead.



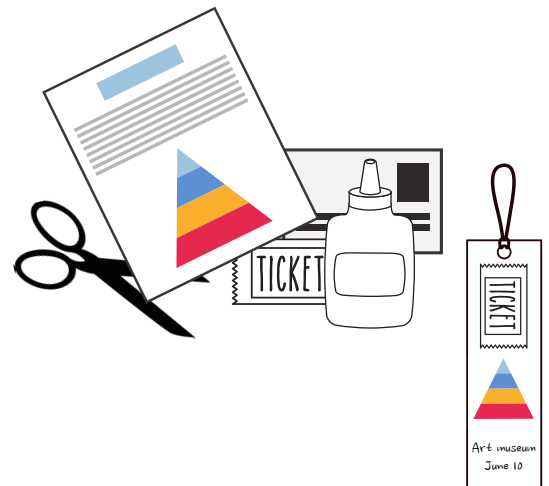
TALK TO YOUR GROWNUP ABOUT THE BEST AND NOT-SO-GREAT THINGS ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Thinking about what you liked and didn't like about your visit can help you plan your next trip to the museum. Use the back of this guide to draw your favorite thing you saw at the museum. Was there anything you wish had been different? Maybe you felt rushed, or maybe you didn't get to see something you really wanted to. Remember, most museums have so much to see that you will need to visit many times to see it all.



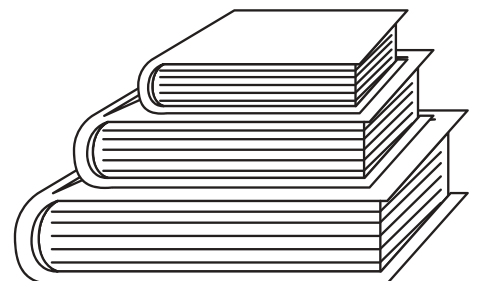
GATHER MATERIALS FOR A COLLAGE PROJECT

As you leave, visit the front desk to see if they have free postcards or stickers. You can also take a few flyers or brochures that have interesting pictures on them. If you took a map when you arrived, or got a ticket, bring those home with you too. When you get home, cut out pictures and images from the materials you gathered and make a collage or a bookmark. Write the name of the museum and the date.



GO TO THE LIBRARY

Museums often have books for visitors to look at. When you're at the museum, write down the titles of any books you see that look interesting, or ask your grownup to take a picture of them. On your next trip to the library, you can look for these books. Your grownup can also go online to see if the library has them, and can request them if not. Or, look for general categories of books related to the museum, like fossils, dinosaurs, or art.



What was your favorite thing at the museum? Draw it here.

