
Use these tips, based on research in museums¹, to design effective worksheets for your students.

Set reasonable expectations

- » **Provide orientation:** Focus on one exhibit hall, or provide directions to easy-to-find landmarks. Keep in mind that crowds can be heavy, and take into account travel time between exhibits.
- » **Focus learning:** Connect to school curriculum or create your own narrative, but work according to an objective. Emphasize concepts rather than facts. Emphasize objects rather than text.
- » **Quality over quantity:** Aim for a few experiences that force students to slow down and consider an exhibit – try not to send your class on a mad search.

Let students have some control

- » **Allow for student choice:** Let individuals decide where and how to complete a given task. Personal choice is quite motivating.
- » **Allow for extra time:** Assignments should be completed with time left for exploration, social interaction, and memory-making.
- » **Be multimodal:** Responses can be in the form of words, drawings, or charts, or involve movement, listening, discussion, etc.

Include social interaction

- » **Among students and chaperones:** Include a task that requires observation rather than reading, engages many senses, involves multiple people, or occurs at an exhibit that accommodates groups.
- » **With museum staff:** Attend a presentation, chat at the tide pool, visit the Naturalist Center, or ask a question to a docent!

¹ Mortensen, Marianne F. and Smart, Kimberly. (Nov 2007). Free-Choice Worksheets Increase Students' Exposure to Curriculum during Museum Visits. *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, v44, n9, p.1389-1414.