

Self Guided Visits

In addition to the workshops delivered by our learning staff the museum offers an array of learning opportunities. Download our guide to preparing your pupils for their visit, some teaching strategies to use in the museum plus ideas to develop back in the classroom.

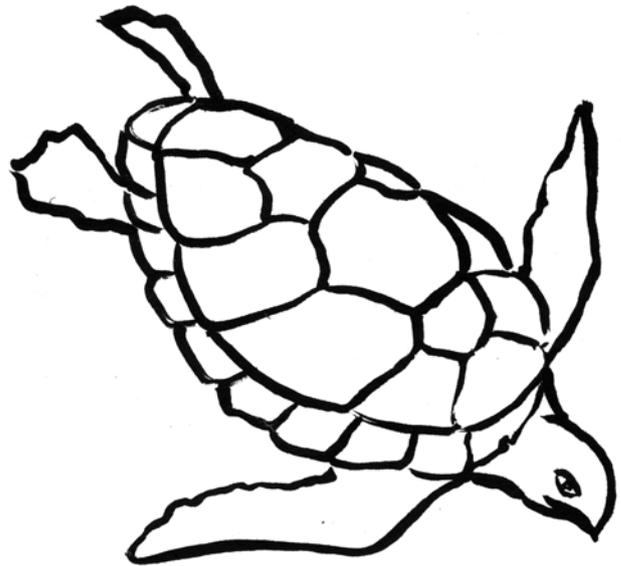
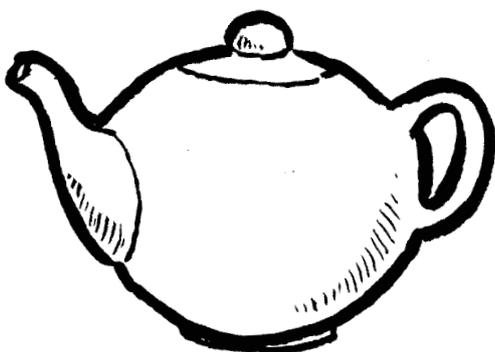
Younger pupils

Preparing for a visit

The following activities may be useful to prepare your class for a visit:

Discuss the following:

- What is a museum?
- What do museums contain? Just objects? Only old objects?
- What decisions do the people who run the museum have to make? Think about what to display, how to display it, the shop, the café...
- Who owns the objects? In a national museum like this, the answer is all of us!
- Why are objects kept in museums?
- What might we see? Here at National Museum Cardiff we collect art, archaeology, geology and natural history
- What would we like to find out?
- Make a virtual visit – show children pictures of the museum.
- Compare the building with other large buildings they know, such as their school, public library, block of flats or supermarket.
- Introduce students to new words like objects, collections, displays, galleries. Pictures of the museum

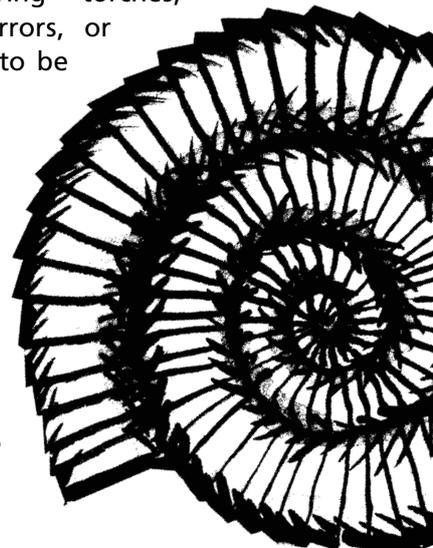


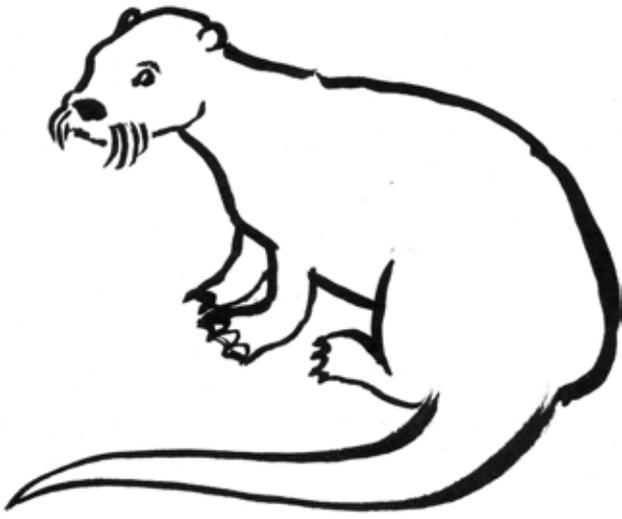
interior will help to do this. Show them postcards and other pictures of museum objects to familiarise them with the kinds of things they will see.

- Assemble a collection of interesting objects and practice talking about them, asking questions about size, shape, texture, colour, decoration, materials, function, etc
- Make an 'eye spy' book using images printed from our website. Challenge your pupils to spot as many of these objects as they can during their visit

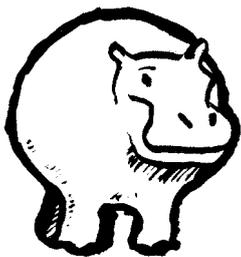
At the Museum

- Try some props, bring torches, magnifying glasses, mirrors, or hats and ask your class to be explorers.
- Spend a little time at the start of your visit to help students to become familiar with looking at displays. Small children tend to stand close up to displays which is not always the best way to see them.





- Talk about what they can see. Describe some objects for them to identify in an 'eye spy' sort of game, e.g. I can see something that's orange, furry with a big bushy tail. What is it?
- Ask them what the smallest/biggest thing is they can see
- Use counting games in galleries/exhibits
- Give them digital cameras to photograph the most interesting things they see.
- Use view finders cut from card to help children explore
- Bring drawing equipment and let children draw what they see.



- Start telling a fictional story set in the museum. Ask your class to collect ideas so you can make up the whole story together when you get back to school. For inspiration use a familiar book as a model

- Children will be fascinated by the museum building so why not include a structured chance to explore.
- Ask children what they like about each new space they enter.
- Encourage children to move in different ways on different floor surfaces or in different spaces, e.g. tiptoe on the tiles, stomp in the dinosaur gallery

Back at School

- Give children the chance to talk about their experiences at the museum. Let them represent the things they were interested

in through drawing, painting, modelling and imaginary play.

- Challenge children to build a museum or gallery with blocks and use small world figures as the visitors. The 'role play' area of the gallery could be turned into the museum.
- Use our website to help children discover more about our collections.
- Create a scrapbook of the visit:
 - put in pictures of children at the museum
 - write in things children remember
 - send postcards home for parents'/carers' memories and add these
 - display photos taken during the visit on your class' page of the school website
- Ask the class to make a presentation about their trip and deliver it to other pupils during a school or class assembly
- As homework ask pupils to tell someone at home all about their trip to the museum
- Make a class museum
- Create an information book about the museum, children can write their own labels about their favourite things in the museum
- Make and decorate boxes for 'precious things'

