

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.

Older pupils

Developing Communication

Encourage students to explore and talk about the gallery:
If you owned a museum what would you put in it? Why?
What is new to you?
What can you find that you already know about?
What would you like to know more about?
Find items that show particular qualities;

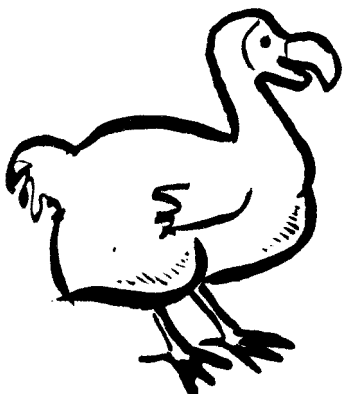
- Items that can be used for ...
- Items that are examples of ...
- Items that could be improved by ...



Developing Research and Communication Skills

Worksheets are not the only possibility. Ask students to use the galleries and exhibits to gather information for a project:

- Develop an interview between scientists/explorers/conservationists/historians. Present this back at school.
- Design a better exhibit. Take notes at the museum and then draw plans back at school.
- Make a quiz for classmates using this gallery.
- Give a short presentation back at school about their favourite object in the museum.
- Make a class museum back at school, pupils design and create labels for the display. Make invitations and invite guests to 'grand opening'



- Write an essay. Take notes at the museum and write the essay at school.
- Make a model of an animal, or of the process of fossilisation, or an archaeological object etc. Research at the museum and construct the model at school.

- Use ICT to design an advert, poster or leaflet to promote the museum.
- Gallery text and interpretation can be used to develop literacy:



How are exhibits arranged? What is the logic?
How are headings and sub-headings used?
Are there any numbers or keys to specimens?
How do we know?
What strategies can we use to decipher unknown words on labels?
How do diagrams and maps work in the gallery?

- A visit to the museum can also be used to develop numeracy
- Use our collections to explore shape
space
patterns
measuring
- A visit to the shop is a chance to practice money maths
- Use museum maps and plans to practice co ordinates and directions
- Lots of our specimens have dates - challenge pupils to find the oldest/newest specimen in a gallery, or to work out the age of certain objects.

