

Beyond the Classroom

GALLERY ACTIVITIES

Grades 3-5

Welcome to *Beyond the Classroom* at the Autry Museum of the American West! The activities in the chart below will encourage students to think, write, draw, and discuss as they explore the galleries. **Choose three to four activities from the chart for students to complete during their visit.**

Please follow these rules in the galleries:

- Divide students into groups of 8 or fewer.
- Each group should always be accompanied by a chaperone.
- Do not point at artwork or objects with fingers or pencils. Use words to describe what you see.

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
What Could It Be?	Entire Museum	Stand with a partner in a gallery. Each person selects a piece of art or an object from the gallery without telling their partner. The first partner describes their chosen piece while the second partner closes their eyes. When the first partner is finished, the second partner can open their eyes and find the piece. Both partners can then read the museum label to learn more about the piece. Repeat this process with the second partner's chosen piece. Do the two pieces have anything in common? Why are they in the same gallery?
Cowboy Life	Cowboy <i>Lower Level</i>	Explore the Cowboy Gallery. Learn about the life of a cowboy or cowgirl by closely observing the objects and reading the information in the gallery. What do they do? What do they wear? What do they eat? What tools do they use? Write a journal entry about a day in the life of a cowboy or cowgirl.
How Did I Get Here?	Entire Museum	Choose an object in one of the galleries. Closely observe it. Read the object's museum label. Then create a story about the life of the object before it came to the Autry Museum. Write it from the point of view of the object. What has it seen? Where has it been? Who has it known? What did it do? When did it do these things? Include the object coming into the museum in the story.
Plant Sketching	Garden <i>Lower Level</i>	Find a plant that you like in the ethnobotanical garden. Closely examine its characteristics. What color is it? What is its size? Does the plant grow low to the ground? What is the leaf shape? Does it have any flowers or fruit? Create a sketch of the plant and write down the plant name if you can find it. Are there any other plants that look like this plant? Consider learning more about the plant you drew when you return to school.
Find and Share	Human Nature <i>Lower Level</i>	Natural resources are anything from nature that people use like animals, plants, rocks, or water. Artifacts are objects made by people like tools. Find at least two natural resources and two artifacts in the gallery. Then show the artifacts and natural resources to a partner. Tell your partner what they are and why you think they are either artifacts or natural resources.
Technology and Transportation	Journeys <i>Lower Level</i>	Find an object in the gallery that is either a type of technology or transportation. Look at it closely and read its museum label. Then create an advertisement that includes a drawing of the object with a written description explaining why people should use this technology or transportation. Include information about what it is, what it does, and how it can help the person reading the advertisement.