

Beyond the Classroom

GALLERY ACTIVITIES

Grades 6-12

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
SIT in Human Nature	Human Nature <i>Lower Level</i>	Explore the Human Nature gallery. As you explore, find something that you found: S urprising I nteresting T roubling Share your thoughts with your group.
Community Objects	Community <i>Lower Level</i>	Choose a display case in the Community gallery. Read about the community represented in the display case. Pick three objects from the display case that you found interesting. Read their museum labels. What do these objects teach you about the community represented in the display case? Share your thoughts with your group.
Like Me	Entire Museum	Find an object or piece of art that you like. Think creatively. How is this piece like you? Share your thoughts with your group. Start your sentence with: "This object (or piece of art) is like me because..."
Now and Then	Lower Level Galleries	Find an object from the past that we still use today. What is the object? How is the object from the past similar to the object today? What similar purpose do they serve? How has the object changed over time?
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?
Themes	Art of the West <i>Lobby Level</i>	Explore the art in Art of the West. Select a wall of art that interests you. Why do you think these pieces of art were grouped together? What do they have in common? Would you display this art differently? Why or why not?
Nature Thoughts	Garden <i>Lower Level</i>	Sit quietly in the garden. Observe what you see, hear, smell, and feel. Write down words that describe your experience. Consider drawing a picture to complement your description.