SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM of natural history

Mini Museum Exhibit Project
Teacher Guide

Next Steps for Teachers	1. Review each lesson (description and links below). 2. Assign students each lesson by sharing the lesson hyperlink.
Questions?	Email education@santacruzmuseum.org
Project Goal	Students will create a model of a museum exhibit, complete with collected specimens, drawings, and labels that interpret their specimens based around scientific concepts.
Supports Content Standards	**NGSS:** 2-PS1-1 - Matter & Its Interactions - Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.
Vocabulary	Specimen, exhibit, label, interpretation
Students will be able to:	• Describe key differences between objects such as color, texture, shape, or origin. • Understand how museums curate exhibits and group different kinds of animals and specimens.
Lesson #1: Engage **Time: 15-25 minutes** **Activities can be done:** **☑ Classroom ☑ At home**	**Students view a presentation of the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's exhibits, and think about how different specimens are interpreted.** • Students see how museums display and interpret specimens. • Students choose a particular exhibit to explore and learn more about the specimens in it. **Click here to view and share lesson #1 with your students.**

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Lesson #2: Explore **Time: 30-1 hour** **Activities can be done:** **☑ Outdoors ☑ At home**	**Students collect different specimens from around their home or favorite outdoor place to explore** ● Students learn about the ethics and rules of collecting specimens from natural spaces. ● Students come up with a plan for their exhibit, and go collect their specimens! **Click here to view and share lesson #2 with your students.**

Lesson #3: Explain **Time: 30-45 minutes** **Activities can be done:** **☑ Outdoors ☑ At home**	**Students create an exhibit that displays and interprets collected specimens, grouping them by shared characteristics.** ● Students build their exhibit and label their specimens. ● Students share their project with the class. **Click here to view and share lesson #3 with your students.**