

Museum Research Project



After visiting the Beaty Biodiversity Museum, you may wish to continue on with some of the knowledge and experiences that your students participated in. Extending their learning can help put the field trip in a more relevant context and can provide an opportunity for exploration of a pathway of interest.

Materials:

- Nature journals
- Guide books
- Computers

Description:

- Remind your class of the different collections that they explored at the museum – the Cowan Tetrapod Collection, the Marine Invertebrate Collection, the Herbarium, the Spencer Entomological Collection, the Fish Collection, and the Fossil Collection.
- Provide them with time to brainstorm which of the exhibits they found the most interesting. After they have done this they can narrow it down further to decide which species they preferred. This can take the form of a web, list, drawing, written sentences, or a different way in their nature journals. Encourage your class to find a mode of representation that works the best for themselves.
- As a class, come up with the criteria for the project. It should generally include a description of appearance, habitat, diet, and interesting facts. This should be adjusted to fit with the needs of your students.
- Give them several class periods to research their chosen organism through online research and/or through books. Students should document their learning in their nature journals in a way that they choose (so long as it is able to convey the information to you). Demonstrate what different journaling pages could look like. See our document on nature journaling for more information.
- Check in with students regularly to monitor their progress. When the class is finished, they can present their journaling style and information to the class.

Adaptations:

- For English Language Learners, you may wish to pair them up with another student to help facilitate understanding. Another option is to provide them with books and resources in their native language to help them translate. The Vancouver Public Library has a variety of books available in a several different languages.
- Older students will be more capable of doing independent research. Younger students may need specific direction to websites that will help them, such as World Book Kids. It may be beneficial to have them work in partners or to have them pair up with students from an older class to help them in their research.