



The Exhibit, the Objects, and You! **An Observation Guide**

Adapted from the Smithsonian Institution Office of Education and Museum Studies

Look at an exhibit and answer these questions about it:

1. Get the big picture by walking through the entire exhibit. Think about how the exhibit is organized. How do colors, graphics and labels with large type help you understand the story or main ideas? How is the space organized?
2. Based on what you have observed, what is the exhibit about? What questions do you have about this topic?
3. Now go back through the exhibit a second time, carefully examining objects that interest you. Choose one of these objects without reading its label. Sketch it, tell a companion about it, or write about it.
4. Look at the object and the label. Together, how do they tell the story of the exhibit?
5. What questions do you still have? Where could you go to find answers?