

Museum Visit

For this project you will be going to a museum, finding three exhibits, and relating them to astronomy, geology, astrobiology or the physics supporting astronomy. Planetariums in general are TOO EASY, because everything is very obviously related. General science museums and technology museums are appropriate. A list of museums follows, with acceptable ones identified. But if you have other ideas for museums, ASK first. If more places are added during the semester, I will let you know.

At the museum of your choice, you will write up **THREE** different exhibits, document what the exhibit looks like, where it is on a map of the museum, describe how it works, and explain how each one is related to physics and/ or astronomy, geology, astrobiology etc. You will be turning in the write up, a map of the museum with your chosen exhibits marked, the admission ticket or receipt, and the objective and conclusion.

For this project, you may write up MORE than three exhibits as insurance in case there is a problem with one or more of them. This is not extra credit.

You may want to review the physics sections of the textbook before you go and may even want to bring the book with you. Plan to write complete the write up AT the museum.

Do ask the helpers and docents at the museum to explain how things work and what they are demonstrating. But don't be too surprised if they get it wrong.

Don't just copy what the write ups on the walls of the museum say. I consider this to be cheating. If you go with other students, **Don't** turn in identical write ups. Use your own words.

It is fine to ask the instructor about the exhibits and your write up before you turn it in. But I don't have all these things memorized. So I will be relying on you to explain what was there as we discuss the museum visit. If you are having a lot of trouble with this assignment, go to the museum once, come discuss what you saw, then plan to go back to the museum.

The answers don't need to be typed, but they need to be legible. The write up will probably need about half a page (~100 words) for the description of each exhibit and another half page to explain the relationship between the exhibit and astronomy, physics, geology, or astrobiology. If you want to writ more, that's fine.

Each sheet needs you to identify the exhibit with a name. Not every exhibit has a name. If there is a written description, the first line may be used as a name.

To document what the exhibit IS, a photo of you and the exhibit would be the best. Digital is fine. If the museum does not permit photos, or if the photo doesn't come out, DRAW what it looks like if you can or write a description. Label your photo or drawing with words telling what the parts are.

Acceptable Museum(s)

Exploratorium (San Francisco)

Tech Museum of Innovation (San Jose)

Children's Museum (San Jose)

Lawrence Hall of Science (Berkeley)

but the planetarium and planetarium show may count for only ONE exhibit

NOT Acceptable (too easy)

Chabot Planetarium

Academy of Sciences/Morrison Planetarium

NOT Acceptable

(not the right type of material unless there is some really special show, if that is the case, ASK FIRST)

art museums in general

History Museums in general (but Edison's workshop, NJ would be ok)

SF MOMA

Oakland Museum

De Young

Asian Museum

Lindsey Museum

Cartoon Museum

You only need to go to the museum one time.

Turn in

Map of the Museum that you have marked with your exhibits
(Most places have the map or floor plan free at the entrance)

Admission stub or receipt.

If you are a member and get in free, copy your membership card.

If you go on a free day and no one is giving receipts or badges, get a guard or front desk person to sign your map.

Three exhibit write ups

Objective and Conclusion

Name of Exhibit:

Museum

Date of Visit

Your Name:

Description of WHAT is happening (picture with labels goes here)

How does this relate to astronomy (or to geology, physics, astrobiology)?