

The Science Museum for Primary Schools



INFORMATION

Age

5-7
7-11

Location

SCIENCE MUSEUM, LONDON

Topic

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Igniting curiosity in science

Take advantage of the inspiring and engaging learning experiences on offer for primary schools at the Science Museum.

Why is the Science Museum such a great place to visit?

The Science Museum is a rich learning resource. With our authentic objects, cutting-edge science stories and hands-on experiences, you will fuel your students' curiosity for science beyond the classroom.

By presenting science in surprising and imaginative ways, a visit to the Science Museum can engage and inspire learners of all styles and abilities. Seeing that museums are places to be enjoyed will boost your students' attitudes towards science and culture, and the memory and impact of your visit could last a lifetime.



Here are our top five learning opportunities...

1

Show the applications of science

Give context to what you are teaching. Explore scientific principles at first hand in our interactive galleries and see how science and technology have shaped our lives using the real-world examples throughout our object-rich galleries.

2

See how science is useful and relevant to everyday life

Science isn't just something learned in school, it's a way of exploring the world and is integral to your students' lives. Connect the past, present and future of science to show how science and technology is evolving and transforming our lives.

3

Use and develop scientific skills

From asking questions and making observations to creative problem-solving, your visit will be a great opportunity to develop students' scientific skills. Our learning experiences are designed to encourage active participation and help your students learn in different and exciting ways.

4

Make links between people and science

The Science Museum can help you share the stories behind the discoveries and explore the breadth and diversity of the people who use science in their work and everyday lives.

5

Spark conversations about science

Encourage your students to talk and share ideas about the things they encounter during a visit and get them to reflect on their experience.

What you can do

Explore galleries full of awe-inspiring objects, amazing stories and cutting-edge science...



V2 rocket



Snoopy telephone



Montgolfier balloon



Iron Baby



Joseph Swan and Thomas Alva Edison lamps



Albino peacock

Experience science principles at first hand in our interactive galleries...



Making the most of your Science Museum visit

Here are six tried-and-tested tips...



Before your visit

1 Make your plan

- Decide what you want your students to get out of the visit. Consider the ideas on pages 6 and 7 for inspiration.
- Check out our website for ideas and activities to help you plan your visit and call our Learning Support team for any practical information that you need to organise your day.
- To familiarise yourself with the experiences on offer and the space, we recommend a visit to the Museum without your students.

2 Build anticipation with a pre-visit activity

- Get students familiar with museum objects by using images of things they might see on the day. Use our simple questioning tool, **See, Link, Wonder**, to help generate discussion around the objects you choose. Find out more on pages 10 and 11.
- Tell students where they will be going and what you want them to get out of their visit.

3 Prepare activities for your visit

- Take advantage of the different experiences in the Museum such as our science shows, exhibitions, costumed characters and hands-on galleries.
- Use active, open-ended tasks. These will hook your students' interest and help them make the most of their visit.
- Your journey time to and from the Museum is a great opportunity to introduce and extend your visit.

4 Prepare your adults

- Your adult group leaders are key for supporting students' learning experiences in the Museum. Brief them on the practicalities of the day and share the **See, Link, Wonder** tool with them to help them keep everyone focused.

During your visit



5 Put your plan into action

- Once in the Museum, take some time to get your bearings. Use our educators' map to help you navigate and orientate yourself.
- Lead the activities you have prepared and allow time for students to follow their own interests in the galleries too.
- Record your visit with photos, videos or drawings. Make a note of students' interests and questions so that you can use them back in the classroom.
- Remember that it's OK if you don't see *everything*. We recommend focusing on up to three objects in any one gallery to create a more manageable and lasting learning experience.

After your visit



6 Extend the experience

- Your experience shouldn't end when you leave the Museum. Talk about and reflect on your visit as soon as you return and create a display of your photos to refer to in future lessons.
- Give your students some questions to help them talk about their visit back at home with their families.
- Take some time yourself to reflect. What worked? What challenges did you encounter? What will you do when you come again? Use your insights to plan your next visit.

See, Link, Wonder questioning tool

See, Link, Wonder is a set of questions to help you and your group start thinking and talking about objects and images before or during a visit to the Science Museum.

Use the questions opposite as a starting point, but do come up with more of your own.



See

Follow your curiosity and use your observation skills

What do you notice first?

Does it look like anything you've seen before?

What clues are there nearby to help you work out what it is?

Link

Make connections with your personal knowledge and experiences

What interests or surprises you about it?

How do you think it might work?

What would your life be like if it hadn't been discovered or invented?

Wonder

Keep following your curiosity

What would you like to know about it?

How could you find out more about it?

What would you tell someone else about it?

Resources and activities

You will find lots of resources to support your visit on our website: [sciencemuseum.org.uk/teachersresources](https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/teachersresources)

Download them to use in the Museum or in your classroom before or after a visit.

For your visit to the Museum

The Great Object Hunt or the Chatterbox Challenge

Simple challenges using observation skills and curiosity to discover surprising and intriguing objects as you explore the Museum with your group.



Gallery guides

Overviews of the main themes, key objects and stories of each of our galleries, with further information to help you navigate and make the most of your visit.



In your classroom

Hands-on activities

Our hands-on science activities will help you connect your curriculum teaching to the science in everyday life. Great to try before or after your visit to the Museum or to give to your students to enjoy and do at home with their families.

Digital games and apps

Use our selection of exciting online games and apps to help your students practise their science skills and learn through play.



And much more...

Explore our website to find lots more ideas and resources that can support your teaching, from simple science activities and image banks to videos and the latest science news.

[sciencemuseum.org.uk/teachersresources](https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/teachersresources)



Add to your visit

Enhance your visit to the Science Museum by choosing from our range of pre-booked events and activities.



Wonderlab: The Statoil Gallery

Book a free session in *Wonderlab: The Statoil Gallery* to ignite your students' curiosity in science with over 50 hands-on exhibits, plus Explainer-led demonstrations and shows. See page 16 for supervision ratios.



Science shows and storytelling

Book places to see our fun and dynamic curriculum-linked interactive shows or storytelling.

Cost: £4 per student



Costumed characters

See our actors bring to life some of the great pioneers from the history of science and innovation to give your students the chance to ask questions and find out more about them.

Cost: £4 per student



IMAX Theatre

See stunning science films in 3D in our IMAX auditorium.

*Cost: £5 per student
(includes education group discount)*

See our website for full details of all events and activities on offer at the Museum.

Special events and activities



Let the Science Museum come to you

Our **Outreach team** can bring a wide range of interactive curriculum-linked shows and workshops into your school, for all sizes of audience.



Spend a night at the Museum

Bring your KS2 class to **Science Night**, an all-night extravaganza with a scientific twist. Take part in hands-on workshops, exciting demonstrations and trails, then sleep overnight in the Museum.



Just for teachers

Courses

Our popular training courses share our practical, effective and creative approaches for engaging students with STEM. You will leave with ideas and all the resources you need to apply the techniques straight away.



Teacher Zone

A VIP reception area just for teachers, held once a term as part of Science Museum Lates. Join us to find out how the Museum can support your teaching and for a fun night of team-building.

See our website for details – entry is free but you will need to pre-book.

What you need to know

Admission to the Science Museum is free, but pre-booking is essential for education groups. Speak to our **Learning Support** team on **020 7942 4777** and they will help you to plan and book your visit, or visit [sciencemuseum.org.uk/educators](https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/educators)

Notes on bookings

- Visits to the interactive galleries *Wonderlab: The Statoil Gallery*, *Pattern Pod* and *The Garden* are free of charge but require pre-booking because spaces are limited. *Wonderlab* is open for different year groups on different days.
- All of our interactive galleries require a supervision ratio of at least 1 adult to every 8 students. A general Museum visit requires 1 adult to every 15 students.
- Our object-rich galleries are not limited on space so your group can explore these galleries at any time during your visit.

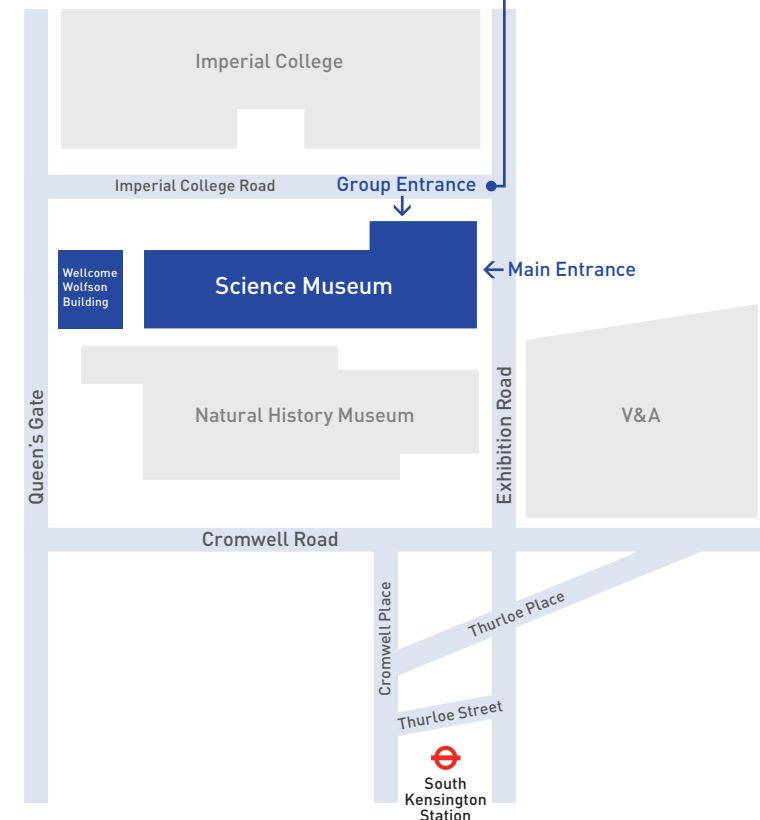


Where we are



Getting here

- The Science Museum does not have parking spaces, but coaches can drop off and pick up outside the Museum on Exhibition Road.
- The closest tube station is South Kensington, which is on the Circle, District and Piccadilly lines, and is a ten-minute walk from the Museum.



Notes and doodles

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