



## Teaching at the NHM

At the Natural History Museum we borrow methodology from Visual Thinking Strategies, or VTS. VTS develops critical thinking skills, uses prior knowledge, and encourages student tolerance for multiple interpretations and complex meanings. It can be used not only within the museum, but also in the classroom using photographs or images.

### During VTS, educators:

#### Ask three open-ended questions:

- What's going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can we find?

#### Use 3 key facilitation techniques:

- Paraphrase comments neutrally.
- Point at the area being discussed.
- Link contrasting and complementary comments.

### During VTS, students:

- Look carefully at images and specimens.
- Talk about what they observe.
- Back up their ideas with evidence.
- Listen to and consider the views of others.



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