

Royal BC Museum Gallery Walk

Gallery Activity

Creator by University of Victoria, Teacher Summer Institute, 2026

Target audience: Environmental Science 11

Location: 3rd floor, Gold Rush and 2nd floor, Natural History Gallery

Activity Description:

While you walk through the various galleries, try to reflect on how human history, industry and colonization have shaped the local environment. Consider the relationships between the land, animals and people. Follow the steps below and respond to the specific questions in the space provided.

Lesson Steps

1. Find the “Gold Rush” diorama with the large water wheel and gold sluice (the trough with water in it). Take some time to view the diorama and make some mental notes about what you see. You do not need to write anything in this step.
2. Reflect on how the settlers utilized the natural resources in this diorama. Once ready, answer the following:
 - a. What are three ways you see that humans altered the natural ecosystem in this exhibit?

3. Leave the Gold Rush exhibit and make your way through the Natural History Gallery. Once you reach the end, answer the following:
 - a. Which animals would have been directly or indirectly impacted by the gold mining?

4. More than 125 years later, think about how past mining practices still have an impact on the present environment.
 - a. How might current salmon populations have been impacted by past mining practices?

 - b. How would the impact of mining on salmon populations affect the local orca population?