

Find your

favourite treasure.

Explain why you like it.

If you were to

wear a treasure,

what would you choose?

What materials were used to make it and what would you do while wearing it?

Find an item that could be used for

protection.

What parts and properties would make it effective?

Think of a

personal treasure.

Find something in the gallery that reminds you of it and explain why.

Find an object which uses

shells.

What do you think the object was used for and what is the purpose of the shells?

Which do you think is the

oldest treasure

in the gallery?

What makes it so special?

What is your

favourite colour?

Find an object with this colour in it.

How does the object make you feel?

Find an object made using

feathers.

Why did its maker use feathers and what do you think it was used for?

Find an object

from a distant land.

What is it?

How do you know it is not from here?

Find an animal from

under the sea.

Why is it a treasure?

Find a form of

transport.

How was it used?

What adventure would you go on if you could use it?

Find an object that has

teeth.

What animal do you think the teeth came from and what was the purpose of them?

Conversation starters

Treasures

Primary and secondary school

Australian Museum conversation starters aim to ignite creative dialogue between students and their teachers. Through freedom of choice, fun questions and quick activities, students are able to investigate specimens and objects through a new lens. No prior knowledge of the exhibition is needed.

How to use

Conversation starters can be printed and used as they are or cut up for distribution. Students can work individually, in pairs or in groups. Use the Museum map to find the relevant exhibition.

Begin by gathering your students in a clear space within the exhibition.

Explain and distribute conversation starters in a way that is appropriate for your group.

Conclude where you began, giving students the opportunity to share their ideas and experiences.

Time needed: Approximately 3-5 minutes per card.

Learning steps



Connect – When choosing an animal or object, encourage students to look closely at its main features.



Share – Students are encouraged to share and discuss their ideas through meaningful conversation.



Reflect – Through whole group discussion, students can reflect on their findings and experiences.