

EXPLORER'S GUIDE FOR A SELF-GUIDED VISIT (Grades 6-8) **TEACHER/CHAPERONE INFORMATION**

To The Teacher

Welcome! The questions in this guide coordinate with our exhibits and are to be used as you tour the Museum grounds with your group. Your students should work on the **enclosed student handouts** (pp.15-25) during their visit. It may take students 3 to 4 hours to complete the entire *Explorer's Guide*. If your class will be spending less time at the Desert Museum, we recommend students complete those sections that best correlate with your science curriculum. Please feel free to modify, add, and/or delete questions to meet the goals of your visit.

INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to Your Visit:

- **Select** sections of the *Explorer's Guide* you'd like students to complete.
- **Make copies of the selected portions of the *Explorer's Guide* and the Museum's School Group Map for each student. Provide copies of the corresponding *Explorer's Guide Answer Key* and map for each chaperone to review before the trip.**
- Review the *Explorer's Guide* questions, map, and exhibit descriptions with your students so they know what they are expected to find and complete at the Museum. (Part 2 of the *Explorer's Guide* is divided into sections similar to those delineated on the Museum map. For more detailed information on exhibits visit our web site: www.desertmuseum.org)
- Remind students to bring a pencil on the trip!

Suggestions:

- Work with your students to find the answers and generate enthusiasm. Divide them into smaller groups (up to 10 students)– **each with an adult chaperone** – and provide each chaperone with the *Answer Key* so they may assist students. Encourage cooperative learning among students.
- An incentive, such as a grade or reward, might help motivate students to complete the handouts.
- **Remind students to make careful observations of plants, animals and geologic features as well as read the signs and labels at each exhibit.**
- Trained Docent Interpreters give a variety of natural history interpretations at different locations throughout the Desert Museum. They provide exciting, hands-on opportunities to learn more about the Sonoran Desert Region. Look for the daily schedule of interpretations at the *Orientation* area (see map). These are well-worth attending.
- **Review the rules of conduct with your students and chaperones before you begin.** Remember, these are **living exhibits**. Following the rules will make your visit a more positive experience for your students and the Desert Museum's wildlife.

Enjoy your visit!

Sincerely,
ASDM Education Department



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