

Tips for Guides Using the Rotunda Sculpture for Discussion



1. View the sculptures and ask visitors to pick out their favorite piece and why they like it. This engages your audience, people share different points of view, thus making everyone see the sculpture in a different perspective
2. After viewing the sculpture, ask visitors/students what item would they add to the sculpture and why.
3. Ask students what ideas they have for a creating mobile sculpture on the Falls themes, possibly for classroom use. What would it include?
4. With teachers, students and some groups, focus on perspective and movement. (It is hoped the vents will be redirected so more air flows through them and thus will move the mobiles more, especially the fossil mobile. When there is movement, the fossils appear to be floating in an ancient sea—even though they are fossils!) Mention taking photos from different angles and how they would be useful for classroom follow up activities.
5. Get some volunteers to lie on their backs on the floor underneath the sun and waterfall. What do they notice that is different?
6. Note lighting changes, the rays of sunshine, overcast day and how it affects the sculpture.
7. A good way to use the new 4 wall mural themes is to start with The Ancient Sea, observe it, noting what is in it, then move to The Ancient Sea sculpture piece and interpret it. You can then proceed in this fashion with each theme from mural to sculpture theme.
8. For teachers & students: What type of materials could they use to create mobiles back in the classroom for Falls themes? (example: cardboard cutouts of hand drawn or painted fossils, molded clay fossil, thin wire). Let them see it as a challenge of design and art.
9. To demonstrate the echo sound effect, have everyone be quiet, then one volunteer starts talking at the map mural, then proceeds while talking to the map interpretation plaque, faces the mural and continues talking. That is the spot where you hear the echo.
10. Ask students to point out the basic geometric shapes they notice. Example: “triangles” as parts of the stars