



Teacher's Guide: Organizing a School Visit to the Museo Nacional de Antropología (CDMX)

Astrolabio's Material



Purpose of the Visit

To engage students in the exploration of ancient Mesoamerican and indigenous Mexican cultures through direct interaction with the museum's exhibits. The visit will promote historical awareness, cultural identity, critical thinking, and teamwork.



Pre-Visit Preparation



For Teachers:

- Book a group visit in advance through the [official website](#).
- Divide students into small groups (3–5 students each).
- Assign each group a different **exhibition hall** or **culture** to explore (e.g., Mexico, Maya, Olmec, Oaxaca, etc.).
- Provide students with guiding questions and the activity project (see below).



What Students Should Bring:

- Notebook and pen
- Mobile phone or tablet (for photos, notes, or recording)
- Headphones (if using an audio guide app)
- Comfortable shoes and water



Visit Structure



Duration: 2.5–3 hours

1. **Welcome and Orientation (20 mins)**
 - Brief explanation of the museum's purpose.
 - Distribution of activity sheets or digital assignments.
2. **Exploration Phase (1.5–2 hours)**
 - Students explore assigned halls in their teams.
 - They collect information, take notes, photos, or short clips for their project.
3. **Reflection and Wrap-Up (30 mins)**
 - Gather outside or in a designated area.
 - Each group shares one discovery or insight.
 - Teacher closes with a summary of key takeaways.



Student Project: "Living History Vlog"



Objective:

Create a 3–5 minute video vlog based on the assigned culture and hall.



Guidelines:

1. Introduce the civilization: Who were they?
2. Highlight key elements: art, religion, society, science.
3. Connect the hall's design and artifacts with the civilization's values.
4. Include personal reflections: What surprised you? What did you enjoy?



Must Include:

- Group collaboration
- Use of visual evidence (artifacts, symbols, architecture)
- Clear narration and structure
- A connection between the past and today's world



Suggested Student Activities During the Visit



Activity 1: Culture Detective

Instructions: Each student must find **three artifacts** in their hall that best represent the civilization's worldview. For each:

- Describe the artifact
- Explain its meaning
- Take a photo or draw it



Activity 2: Design a Codex (for Maya/Mixtec groups)

Students create a **mini codex page** using symbols from what they saw. They should invent a story or message using these glyphs.



Activity 3: Build Your Exhibit

In groups, students design their **own museum exhibit** using photos, sketches, and descriptions. They must explain the layout, lighting, and why they chose each item. Present it as a short pitch to the class.



Activity 4: History Through Storytelling

Pick a myth, ritual, or figure from your assigned culture. Recreate the story in a short **dramatization or animation** in your video project.



Post-Visit Reflection & Assessment

For Students:

- Complete a **reflection journal**:

What did you learn? What surprised you? What would you like to research more?

- Finalize and submit their group vlog with credits.

For Teachers:

- Use a rubric to evaluate:
 - Historical understanding

- Creativity and communication
- Teamwork
- Engagement with the exhibit
- Accuracy and structure of the vlog



Optional Enhancements

- Invite a guest speaker (e.g., an archaeologist or anthropologist).
- Host a classroom “mini museum” where groups present their findings.
- Partner with the museum for virtual sessions before or after the visit.