

CHRIS 2E NEWS



Learning Through Traveling

Twice-exceptional people need ways to unwind. Summer is a perfect time for 2e students to satisfy their intellectual curiosities without the stress of school. Traveling is a great way to explore new places, meet new people, and learn new things.

Earlier this month, I traveled to Vancouver BC, where I visited several educational sights. I practiced new and effective learning techniques that can help other 2e students. Here are some tips for curious learners, who want to make the most of their vacations.



Sea Lion and Seal

Visit the Aquarium

The aquarium is a good choice for kids and adults interested in marine biology. Most aquariums provide placards with descriptions of the sea life being exhibited. Because aquariums cater to the general population, the descriptions are clear, simple, and concise: students don't need to worry about dense textbook reading to learn about the sea creatures on display. Aquariums also provide maps detailing the geographical range of the different animals. Twice-exceptional persons can also ask the knowledgeable staff specific questions.

Importantly, students can directly observe the behaviors of aquatic animals. Visitors may learn that seals and sea lions are quite territorial and value a private spot to lie down and sunbathe. Or, guests may discover that the octopus is quite intelligent and adept at finding hiding places out of view from curious people. Books often omit these important real world facts. Through observation, learners gain intuitive knowledge and ask themselves important questions.



UBC Museum of Anthropology

Visit the Museum

The local museum is a great destination for art lovers and history buffs. Museums often exhibit artworks and artifacts from local cultures. Seeing artifacts in person gives a visitor important contextual clues, such as the material used for construction and the size of the objects. Viewing artifacts also gives a visitor a greater appreciation for skill required to create these works of art. focus on the Native American cultures in British Columbia.

At the UBC Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver, I learned that many BC tribes engaged in potlatches, gift-giving ceremonies with large feasts. I also discovered that the native tribes specifically chose the durable wood of western red cedar trees to make plank houses, clothes, and totem poles. The diverse collection of artifacts showed me how nuanced totem pole design could be, with only certain animals carved into the wood depending on the poles' situational purpose.



VanDusen Botanical Garden

Visit the Botanical Garden

A botanical garden is educational for students interested in the natural environment. The garden calms anxiety yet stimulates the senses through manicured foliage, fragrant flowers, and chirping birds, all of which spur creativity for paintings, poems, and essays. The garden's paths encourage gentle exercise, which improves attention and concentration. Most gardens also provide identification labels for plants, flowers, and trees.

Surprisingly, a botanical garden promotes critical thinking skills. These parks group trees, flowers, and plants by geographic location. Visitors can think about plant characteristics based on specific environments. For example, desert plants often bristle with sharp spines (like cacti), which protect precious water from herbivores. Desert plants also have tough, leathery leaves to slow evaporation and deep taproots to access scarce water.