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# Awesome Adventures At The Smithsonian: The Official Kids Guide To The Smithsonian Institution



## Synopsis

From Dorothy's red slippers to dinosaurs to the Wright brothers' plane, the Smithsonian is filled with objects fascinating to kids. Yet choosing what to see at the Smithsonian can challenge even the most enthusiastic families. Packed with activities, information, and pictures, this lively new guide offers children ages 8-12 years a way to navigate the Smithsonian. Engaging maps, photographs, and illustrations present the main museum halls along with puzzles, games, mad libs, and pages for journal entries, drawings, and superlatives that will help get kids ready for their big trip to the nation's capital and keep them focused and attentive as they navigate the world's largest museum complex that is the Smithsonian Institution. *Awesome Adventures at the Smithsonian* (spiral bound) is the perfect way to engage any child on their big trip to Washington, DC, and the Smithsonian.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Former museum docent and teacher Korrell has crafted an in-depth and interactive guide to the nation's most iconic museum system. This manual encompasses three of the Smithsonian Institute's most frequently visited sites: the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of American History, and the National Museum of Natural History. Included are general do's and don'ts for the museums, checklists of major highlights, and annotated floor plans. This book is a must-read for families headed to the museums, as it both maximizes

visitors' time spent in the facilities and serves as a great memento—especially since readers are encouraged to journal and record their impressions of major exhibits along the way. While intended for use in conjunction with a site visit, kids not headed to Washington will find value in reading about the Smithsonian's hallmark exhibits, such as the First Ladies' inaugural gowns, the Wright Brothers' airplane, and the Hall of Mammals. A dynamic layout will foster boundless interest for museum visitors and casual readers alike. Grades 4-7. --Erin Anderson

**KIRKUS REVIEW**The Smithsonian isn't just rocket science. This spiral-bound guide is a modestly hefty piece of work, but that is due to the fact that we often forget that the Smithsonian isn't just where they store the Spirit of Saint Louis and the lunar module. It is also home of the national museums of natural history and American history, as well as the air and space museum. And the collections are, in a word, spectacular. Korrell has a good mix going, with plenty of archival and contemporary photographs and illustrations accompanied by punchy text. Both Korrell and museum professionals have contributed the latter, with only a little oversimplification. "Geology is about understanding what we see around us." It is predominantly straightforward—a good combination of earnest and bouncy—with bracing touches of humor: "Robotic spacecraft aren't as particular as human space explorers—they do what they are asked to do without grumbling." Always, Korrell keeps readers engaged with some simple quizzes—you can write right in the "guide"—and hide-and-seek games that challenge readers to find various objects somewhere in the rooms, as well as other activities. A serious introduction to the national museums that does not take itself too seriously. (Nonfiction. 8-12)

**FOREWORD**The "M" word (museum) never had a bad connotation in our house, and that is probably because access to incredible museums was somewhat limited in Northern Michigan. Our visits to museums were usually wrapped up in a vacation, and we started our kids early beginning with The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, followed quickly by the big fish tank in Chicago. The Smithsonian was done in doses due to its sheer size, and boy I wish we had access to this hands-on book for kids in advance. Parents will find this fun, four-color, interactive guide and workbook a great introduction to the three most visited: the National Air & Space, Natural History, and American History museums. Interviews, quizzes, games and journal pages along with 450 photos and illustrations.

**BOOKLIST**Former museum docent and teacher Korrell has crafted an in-depth and interactive guide to the nation's most iconic museum system. This manual encompasses three of the Smithsonian

Institution's most frequently visited sites: the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of American History, and the National Museum of Natural History. Included are general do's and don'ts for the museums, checklists of major highlights, and annotated floor plans. This book is a must-read for families headed to the museums, as it both maximizes visitors' time spent in the facilities and serves as a great memento—especially since readers are encouraged to journal and record their impressions of major exhibits along the way. While intended for use in conjunction with a site visit, kids not headed to Washington will find value in reading about the Smithsonian's hallmark exhibits, such as the First Ladies' inaugural gowns, the Wright Brothers' airplane, and the Hall of Mammals. A dynamic layout will foster boundless interest for museum visitors and casual readers alike. • Erin Anderson

I bought this for my son before a trip to DC. It's got great information and he was excited to see the things he read about once we got to the museums. I wasn't aware that the book does discuss some aspects of evolution so I figured I'd add that if it's important for anyone to know. Overall, a nice guide to the museums.

I ordered this book for our 10 year old son to get him fired up for our spring break trip to Washington, DC. What a cool book it is! We've tagged the things we all want to see, plus there are plenty of places to write in your own answer to questions on a variety of topics. It's going to be great in the car on the way. I definitely recommend it!

On our way to DC this summer, the kids got a head start on what they wanted to see in the museums there. This book was great--fun pictures, lots of information and easy for kids to read.

The kids has fun looking up details of displays that we were looking at.

We learned a lot thanks to this book during our trip to D.C. My 8-year-old enjoyed the activities, which we tried to do before visiting the museum. This made the visit more meaningful and fun. I wish there were guides like this for our museums in NYC (perhaps there are, but I didn't find them). The book is very informative but not at all overwhelming.

Very appealing format and interesting information. The museum maps are helpful. We will be

interested to see how the interactive pages are received by our three 11 yr. olds. I think the colorful illustrations and fast facts will appeal to all of the kids and prepare them for some of the exhibits. We have even seen the adults reading this book. It will make good reading for a long plane ride.

Not only do my kids love it so do I! The Smithsonian museums can be so overwhelming and this book nicely broke down 3 of the museums into bite size pieces if you will. Plus the maps of the museums are very helpful. My 10 year daughter is so excited to see the big dollhouse and the First Ladies' dresses at the Museum of American History and my 12 year old son has even been caught flipping through the pages as well!

Wonderful tool for planning trip to D.C. I ordered this for each grandson for our trip to D.C. this summer. They can plan out our tools and use this during to make notes and review at later dates.

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