

Museum of Natural Science Info-Hunt – Middle Level

Go to the fossil section of the museum.

1. Drakoceras and Craginites are types of spiral shell fossils in this collection. What is the name of this family of shells?
2. Locate the large mastodon, mammoth and elephant teeth. Other than color, how are the three teeth alike? How are they different? What type of food do you think these animals ate?
3. Find the fossil of the false Saber Tooth Tiger. What characteristics can you see that let you know he is a predator? List at least three.
4. Find the killer fish fossil on the wall with its mouth open. What do we think this animal ate?
5. Look at the skulls of the 2 dinosaurs in the center of the museum. Which one is a predator and which one is a prey? Tell why you answered as you did.
6. Dinosaurs laid eggs as birds do. In the center display there are dinosaur eggs. List 3 ways these eggs are different from chicken eggs.

Go to the shell section of the museum.

7. What is the name of the Texas state shell?
8. Name & draw a shell from the Texas Gulf Coast collection. If you have ever found a shell like this one, draw a smile face next to it.
9. Go through the archway in the shell collection. Which shells do you think are the most colorful? Do the shells live on land or in the water? Can you guess why the shell animals make their shells all the different colors?

Go to the Wildlife section of the museum.

10. What flying bird has purple wing feathers? _____
11. Locate the large forest scene behind the dimetrodon. Name three different animals that are competing for the same food.

For what food are they competing? _____
12. Among the butterflies are ones from Brazil and Peru of the genus Morpho. What color are they from above? _____ Step back 5 steps and look again. What change do you see to their color?

Go to the Rock & Mineral collection.

13. Go to the Geode display in one of the back display cases in the Rock and Mineral Collection. Geodes are rocks that are very boring on the outside and very beautiful on the inside. Describe or draw a picture of the inside of a geode.

14. You have observed many rocks in this collection. How are fossils different from rocks? (If you have not visited the fossil section of the museum yet, you may go back and answer this question later.)

Go to the Raymond Walley Hall of Archaeology

15. What is the oldest culture in the Pre-Columbian (before Christopher Columbus) art collection? _____