

# M is for MUSEUM

Here is an alphabetical list of all of the letters in the exhibition. In italics is a description of the activity associated with that letter in *M is for Museum*.



## **A is for Artifact**

Artifacts are objects made by humans. Carnegie Museum of Natural History collects, cares for, and preserves artifacts as a way of understanding human history and culture.

*Using your detective skills and a few clues, play a seek-and-find game using photographs of artifacts. Determine what makes an artifact different from a fossil.*



## **B is for Beautiful**

A copper crystal, a moth, and a toad are all things Carnegie scientists find beautiful in the natural world.

*See beautiful specimens that inspired these and other scientists to choose their careers. Become a beautiful butterfly by trying on some wings.*



## **C is for Collect**

Collections are the backbone of Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The museum has 22 million specimens in its collection.

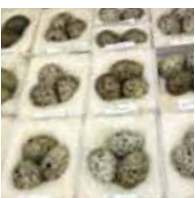
*Focus on specimens and what people learn from them. Meet the staff members who organize and care for the thousands of birds, millions of bugs, and storerooms full of other specimens. Gather specimens and create a collection of your own for display in M is for Museum.*



## **D is for Draw**

Carnegie Museum of Natural History has several scientific illustrators who use their drawing skills to help researchers understand specimens.

*Meet the museum's scientific illustrators. Explore how illustrators use skeletons to determine how extinct animals might have looked. See how illustrations can show tiny details of an insect's body. Try making your own drawing of a museum specimen.*



## **E is for Egg**

The museum's collections include eggs in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors. These eggs were laid by birds, reptiles, fish, and invertebrates (animals without backbones).

*Examine clutches of eggs—groups of eggs laid at one time—from the museum's collection. Use puppets to practice laying pretend clutches.*



## F is for Fossil

The museum houses many fossils of plants and animals from millions of years ago.

*Examine fossils from the museum's invertebrate and vertebrate paleontology collections. Learn what fossils are, where they come from, and how they differ from one another. Try your hand at piecing together fossils by using floor puzzles.*



## G is for Gigantic

Carnegie Museum of Natural History houses really big dinosaurs, birds, beetles, and minerals.

*Compare your humerus (upper arm bone) to those of a dinosaur, giraffe, elephant, and shrew to see how you measure up. Compare your wingspan to that of the albatross, a gigantic bird!*



## H is for Horse

Anthropologist Sandra Olsen studies how humans tamed horses. She searches for evidence of how working with horses changed the way humans lived.

*Watch a video about Sandra's research on horses. Build a miniature stable and play with horses.*



## I is for Identify

All objects have characteristics—the details that our researchers look for when identifying a specimen.

*Test your skills by identifying animal skulls based on characteristics important to scientists.*



## J is for Jar

*Photo Op!* Some museum specimens, especially amphibians and reptiles, are stored in jars filled with alcohol to keep the plants or animals soft and easy to work with.

*Bring your camera: pretend you're a specimen and pose for a picture inside a pretend, kid-sized specimen jar.*



## K is for Kid

Some Carnegie scientists started out by observing birds building their nests and examining wildflowers when they were kids. Now that our scientists have grown up, they get to do these fun things in their jobs!

*Check out the Digital Discovery Room website and learn how you can participate in this nature exploration project at home.*



### **L is for Look**

Scientists use special tools to get an up-close look at the specimens they are studying.

*Use hand lenses and microscopes to conduct examinations of snail shells, bird wings, bones, insects, plants, and fossils. Learn about how scientists use a GigaPan robot to take pictures that create one huge, detailed photograph that can be used in scientific study.*



### **M is for Museum**

Carnegie Museum of Natural History collects and preserves more than 22 million objects. We have more than 35 scientists working behind-the-scenes, researching everything from snails to fossils to tree DNA. In *M is for Museum*, peek into the museum world you do not often see as a visitor.

*Record a video of your favorite memory of the museum to share with other visitors.*



### **N is for New**

The museum's collections are constantly growing, with new specimens and objects being added year-round by our staff through trading, collecting, or purchasing.

*Learn how some of our new specimens came to the museum. See whether you have been to any of the places where they were found.*



### **O is for Old**

Whether you call them historic or prehistoric, ancient or antique, the museum collects things from all time periods, past and present. Our collection includes some of the oldest objects on Earth—including parts of Earth!

*Talk to your family to figure out the oldest thing that you own. How old is it? What is its story? Why do you still have it?*



### **P is for Powdermill Nature Reserve**

At Powdermill Nature Reserve, the environmental research center of Carnegie Museum of Natural History, migratory birds are weighed, measured, and banded. Banding is a process in which a small ring-like band with identification numbers is placed on the ankle of each bird.

*Collect data by banding, weighing, measuring, and examining a replica bird.*



### **Q is for Quantity**

Our natural history museum collection is one of the largest in the United States. Our 22 million fossils, minerals, plants, animals, and artifacts come from all over the world. A good collection has different examples of things along with all their details so we can study diversity.

*View a video that celebrates nature and our collections.*



### **R is for Read**

Reading is an important part of every person's life. Stories of nature and science inspired many of the museum's staff to work at a museum.

*Take time to read a story or two recommended by staff members as favorites from their childhood.*



### **S is for Sound**

We study sounds to learn more about our world. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, the environmental research center of the museum, researchers study bird calls. These bird calls allow us to determine what kinds of birds, and how many, are traveling through Powdermill at night.

*Listen to bird calls as you watch a video that explains how the sounds are recorded.*



### **T is for Taxidermy**

Stuffing animal skins and posing them for display is called taxidermy. Carnegie Museum of Natural History houses more than 2,000 taxidermy mounts.

*Look at taxidermy mounts of mammals, reptiles, and birds. Learn about the biggest and smallest animal mounts in the museum collection. Examine real pelts and skulls.*



### **U is for Unknown**

A specimen is classified as unknown until it is identified by a scientist through research. Research helps us figure out whether other specimens like it have already been found or if it is something new. When specimens are discovered for the first time, they are described and given a name by scientists.

*See whether you recognize some of the insect and animal species named by Carnegie scientists.*



### **V is for Volunteer**

More than 375 volunteers help Carnegie Museum of Natural History by working with our collection, preparing programs, giving tours, and talking to our visitors.

*Meet some of our Teen Docents, a group of young volunteers that you may have seen at our Discovery Carts throughout the museum.*



### **W is for What**

Kids and adults in the museum often ask our staff, "What is that?"

*Use your sense of smell to identify some of the plants represented in our botany collection.*



### **X is for X Marks the Spot**

Our scientists work here at the museum, in Pennsylvania, and throughout the United States, but they also travel all over the world.

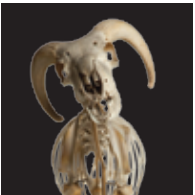
*Meet some of our scientists. Conduct research in Antarctica, Taiwan, Kazakhstan, and Germany, to name only a few. Share with other visitors where you would like to go and what you would like to study.*



### **Y is for You**

The museum wants you to learn about and protect nature.

*Find out what you can do to help protect nature. Vote for your favorite research area. Pick up your M is for Museum collection cards [here](#).*



### **Z is for the Zone**

The Zone is a kids' exploration area.

*Hang out in a bean bag chair, pick up a book, do a puzzle, or just check out the cool mammal skeletons. Enjoy!*