TREASURES OF THE NATURAL WORLD

Education Resource | Teacher Notes

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

CREATIVE VICTORIA

MUSEUMS VICTORIA

Using this education kit

This resource has been designed to support teachers and students when visiting the Treasures of the Natural World exhibition at Melbourne Museum.

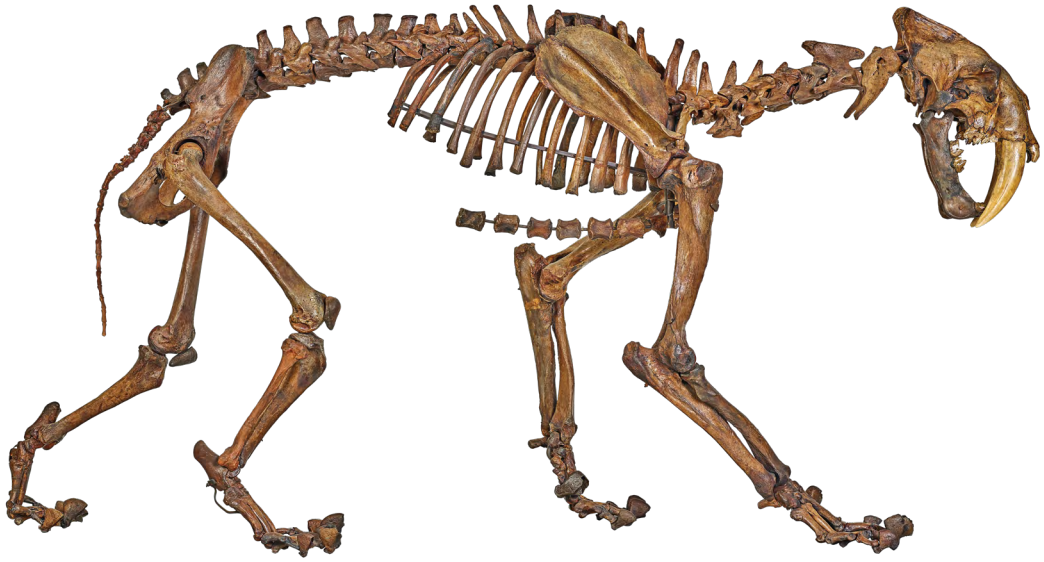
In this education kit you will find:

- A map of the exhibition
- Key learning ideas and curriculum links
- Activities to guide student thinking in the Treasures exhibition
- Activities that link objects in the Treasures exhibition with objects in the Science and Life gallery at Melbourne Museum
- Resources and ideas for further learning back at school

About the exhibition

The world's biggest, rarest, oldest and most fascinating treasures from London's Natural History Museum here at Melbourne Museum!

Journey through the natural world and marvel at objects that have shaped our understanding of the Earth and changed the course of humanity. From the unique or extremely rare, to the mysterious and astonishing. You and your students will get up close and personal with over 200 artefacts that unlock the mysteries of life, and whose colourful stories will inspire you to see our world, our biggest treasure, in a completely different light.



Exhibition map

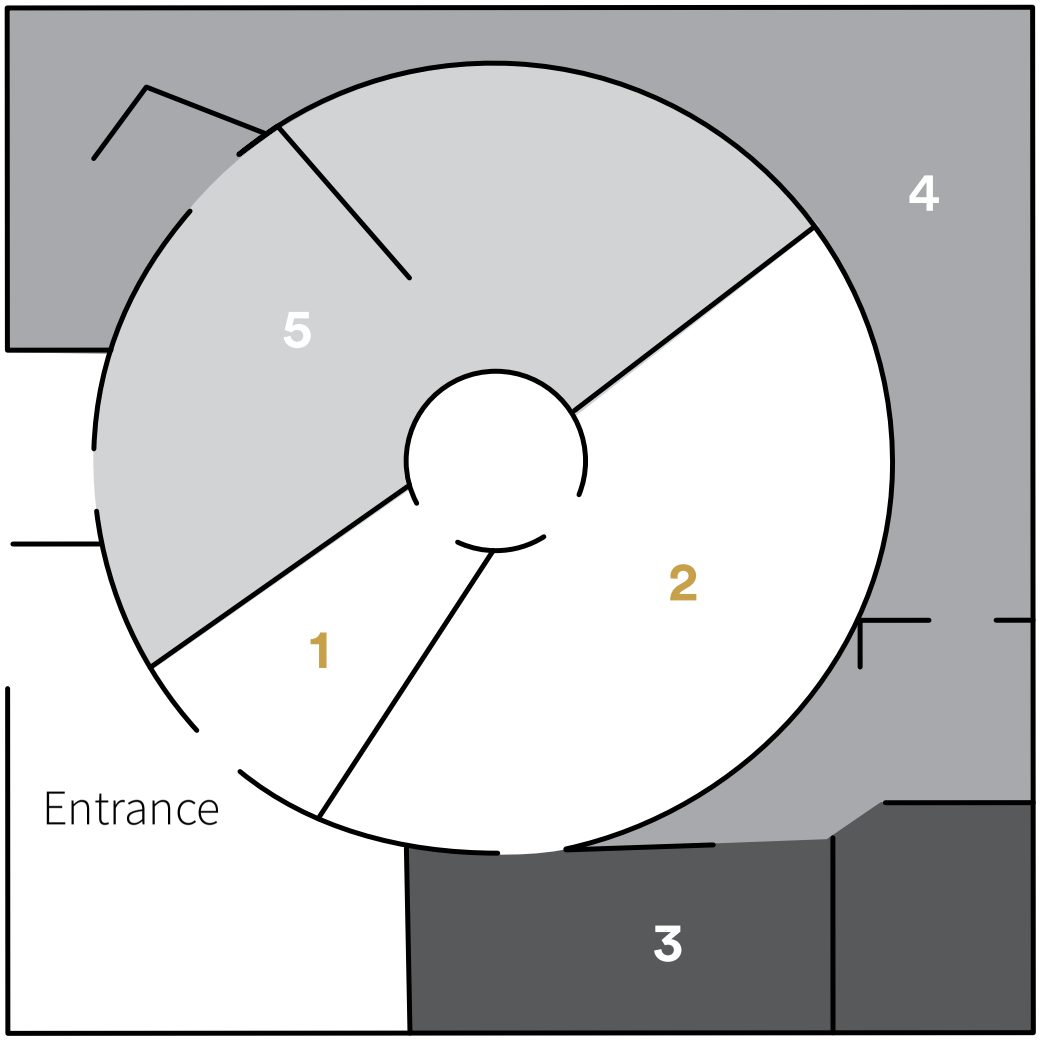
1 Intro to NHM

2 Amassing knowledge and wonder

3 Expanding Theories—The Thinkers

4 Expanding Theories—The Roamers

5 Contemporary Importance



Key ideas for primary school students

Scientific understandings and discoveries help us to understand the world around us

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Life on Earth is diverse and unique

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The Earth's natural processes create rare and beautiful things

Cirruculum Links

- Scientific understandings, discoveries and inventions are used to inform personal and community decisions and to solve problems that directly affect people's lives *(VCSSU073)*
- Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things *(VCSSU057)*
- Earth's surface changes over time as a result of natural processes and human activity *(VCSSU062)*

Key ideas for highschool students

Scientific knowledge and understandings are constantly evolving

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The values and needs of contemporary society influence scientific research

—

Taxonomic classification helps us to understand the diversity of life on Earth

Cirruculum Links

- Scientific knowledge and understanding of the world changes as new evidence becomes available; science knowledge can develop through collaboration and connecting ideas across the disciplines and practice of science *(VCSSU089)*
- The values and needs of contemporary society can influence the focus of scientific research *(VCSSU116)*
- There are differences within and between groups of organisms; classification helps organise this diversity *(VCSSU091)*
- The theory of evolution by natural selection explains the diversity of living things and is supported by a range of scientific evidence *(VCSSU120)*

Finding Treasures

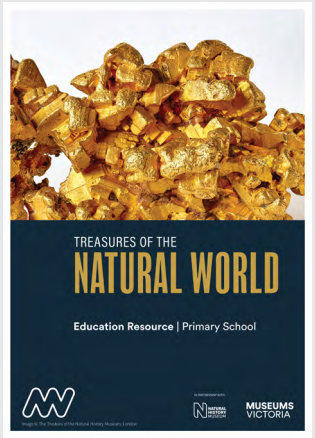
Guided thinking activity

The Finding Treasures worksheet (attached PDF) has been created to guide students' thinking whilst inside the Treasures of the Natural World exhibition.

The questions were designed with a primary school audience in mind. However, they are open-ended and broad enough to also work with high school students.

Teachers are encouraged to print the activity sheets at school and discuss each question with students prior to entering the exhibition.

Encourage your students to use their creativity when completing the activities. There are no right or wrong answers as each student will engage with the objects in their own unique way. The primary goal for this activity is to foster curiosity and wonder about the natural world.



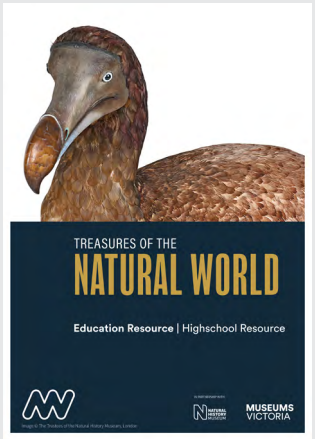
Treasures of Science and Life

Activity Trail

The Treasures of Science and Life activity trail (attached PDF) has been created to connect objects from the Treasures of the Natural World exhibition with objects in Melbourne Museum's Science and Life gallery.

This trail has been designed with high school students in mind, although it may also be suitable for Grade 5 / 6 students.

- Print the trails and split students into groups. Give each group a different number on the map to start at - this will avoid congestion in the exhibition.
- As students view each object, they should discuss the correlating questions and complete the designated task.
- The trail is split into two parts - a Treasures Trail and a Science and Life Trail. It does not matter which order the trails are completed in.
- Objects with the same number on each trail are related—the idea is that students will identify connections between the objects in both exhibitions.



Ideas for back at school

Researched focused questions

- Charles Darwin & Alfred Wallace are recognised as being two of the great scientific minds of our time. What contributions did they make to the field of biological science? Research and discuss.
- In the Treasures of the Natural World exhibition there was a Martian meteorite. Did you know that the Earth frequently experiences meteorite impacts? Use the Dynamic Earth website to learn more about meteorites, including significant crater sites and meteorite impacts in Australia.
  https://museumsvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/resources/dynamic-earth/
- The diversity and evolution of life on Earth is something to be marvelled at. Explore the 600 Million Years website to discover how life on earth has evolved and changed over the past 600 million years.
  https://museumsvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/resources/600-million-years/

Creative thinking questions

- Imagine that you are living 200 years in the future. Name three modern day objects that you would choose to collect for a museum to represent 'treasures' of our world today? Give an overview of why you think each object is important and how they represent our world today.
- Choose an animals that is extinct. Redesign it with three new adaptations that would allow it to survive on Earth today.
- If you were a scientist, what great discovery would you like to have made? Explain your thinking.

Additional education resources

The following websites will support students with further learning about the natural world:

The Natural History Museum learning resources
https://www.nhm.ac.uk/schools/teaching-resources.html

Museums Victoria Dynamic Earth website
https://museumsvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/resources/dynamic-earth/

Museums Victoria 600 Million Years website
https://museumsvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/resources/600-million-years/

Museums Victoria Dinosaur Walk website
https://museumsvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/resources/dinosaur-walk/