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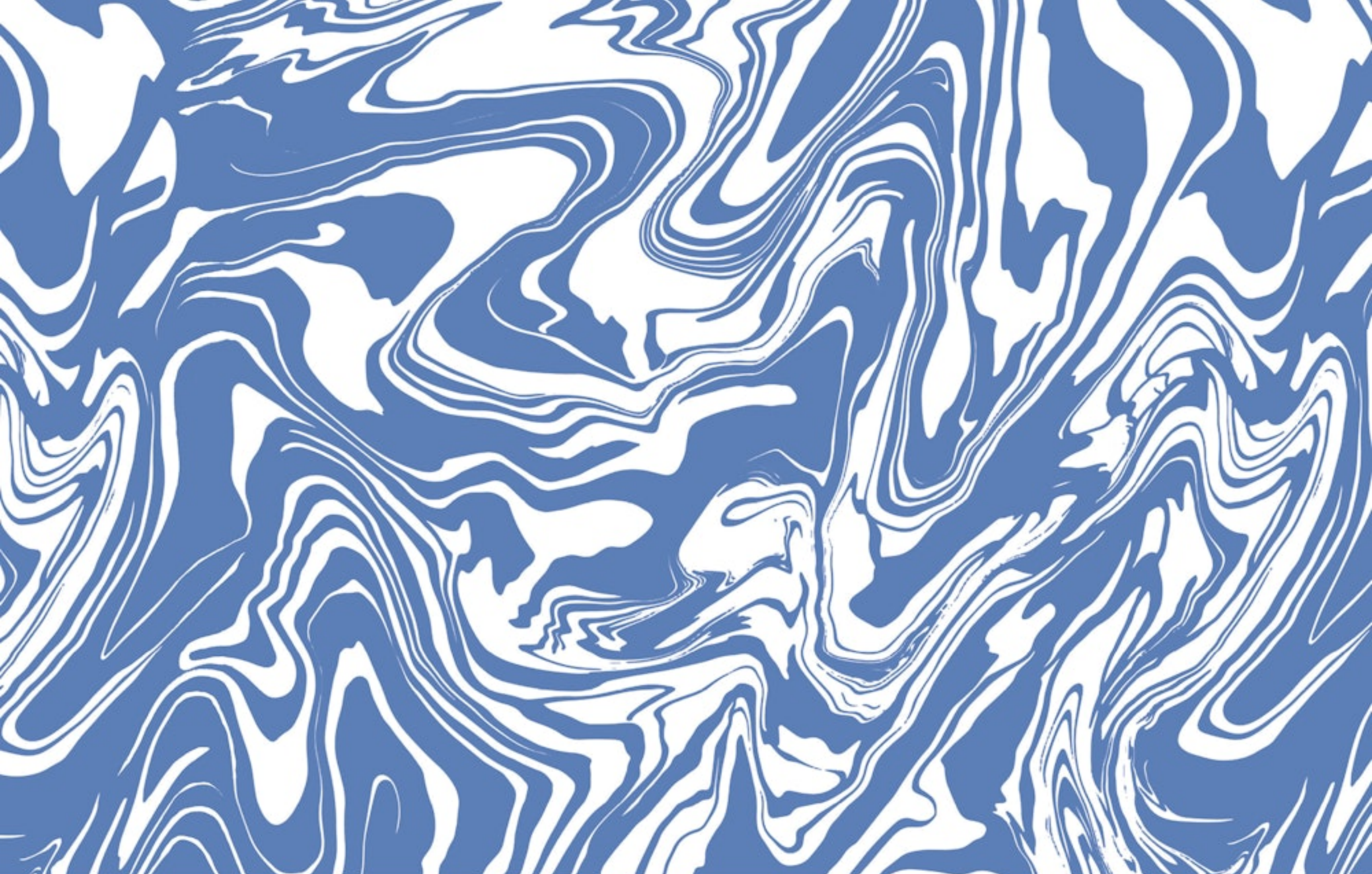
LOCKED

IN THE

MUSEUM

WITH SIX
PANORAMIC
FOLD-OUT
GALLERIES TO
DISCOVER

COVER NOT
FINAL



For all the marvellous
museums I've lost hours-days
in over the years. - L.S.S

For all those who are curious,
adventurous, and not afraid of
a good scare, let the adventure
continue! - A&M

A TEMPLAR BOOK

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Contents

The Dinosaur and Fossils Gallery	10
The Nature Gallery	14
The Human Origins Gallery	18
The Ancient Civilisations Gallery	24
The Art Gallery	30
The Transport Gallery	34
The Space Gallery	38
The Science and Technology Gallery	42
The Earth Gallery	48
Making Changes	54
Coming Alive	56
Museum Credits	58
Glossary	60

M.M.M

MUSEUMS ARE MAGICAL PLACES

A museum is just like a history book, where every object is a plotline, and every gallery another chapter in the story of life on this planet. Museums house vast collections – from dinosaur bones to steam engines and Stone Age tools to space rocks – helping millions of people to understand not only the past, but what might come next. And working inside these museums are countless storytellers – the curators, exhibition specialists, tour guides, archivists, conservators, historians, archaeologists and many more – sharing the tale of each treasured object so that the museum can come alive. With around 100,000 museums scattered across the globe, you couldn't possibly visit them all. But then again, what if you could?

You've heard mysterious tales about this museum. There are rumours that on one special night, the world's most amazing artefacts can all be found here, under one roof. Stranger still, apparently the museum quite literally comes alive! Could it be true? And could that one, magical night be tonight?

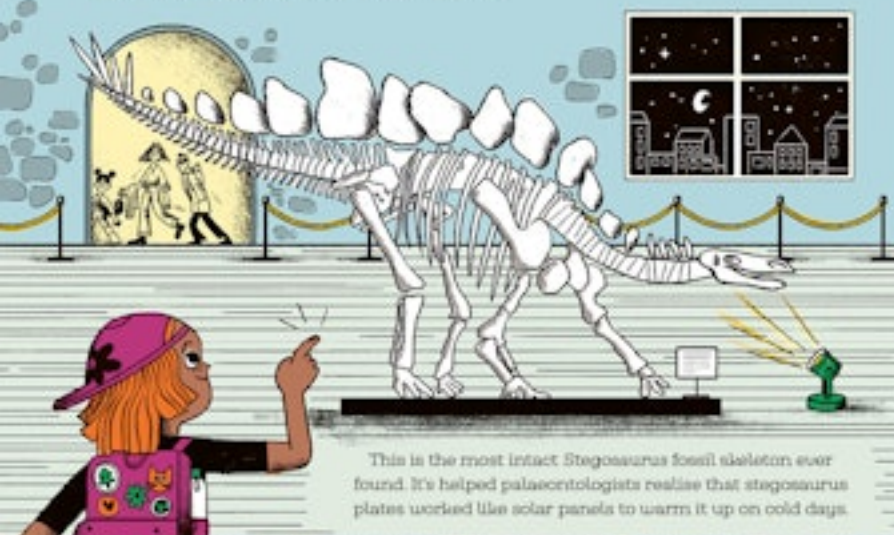
Probably not. Nothing exciting ever happens on a school trip.
Or does it?

Welcome to the
MOST MARVELLOUS
MUSEUM!



THE MOST MARVELLOUS MISTAKE

After a full day exploring the museum with your class, you finally arrive in the Dinosaur Gallery. Your eyes immediately fix on the stegosaurus, and you begin to count: "Fifteen, sixteen, se-ve-n-tee-eeen." Ha! Liam was wrong. There are seventeen plates on a stegosaurus! You're still the undisputed champion of dinosaur facts.



Suddenly you notice that you've got the Dinosaur Gallery all to yourself. In fact, it's eerily quiet in the corridor too.

You make your way to the gift shop – surely that's where everyone must be. But then – click! The lights go out.



Uh oh, you were so distracted by the dinosaurs, you must have missed the announcement for closing time, and now...

YOU'RE LOCKED IN THE MUSEUM!



All alone in the museum, eh? No queues. No shushing when you're too loud. Just you and some of the most jaw-dropping exhibits on the planet!

This is going to be THE BEST NIGHT EVER!



You've been here at least a hundred times before – there's always so much to see but never enough time to see it! Well, tonight is different. This is your chance to do everything you've always dreamed of – try on the armour, press all the buttons in the space shuttle, and best of all, sneak behind the scenes. After all, around 90 per cent of a museum's collection is tucked away in storage, and tonight you'll finally get to explore those items too. How much can you pack in before the sun rises and the guard's keys jangle at the door?

Armed with a map and a torch, you dash across the polished marble floor, making a beeline back to the Dinosaur Gallery.

BONES AND STONES

THE DINOSAUR AND FOSSILS GALLERY

This gallery is brimming with bones, mainly from – whoaaaa, you guessed it – dinosaurs! You crane your neck up, up, up, to take in the full might of the world's BIGGEST dinosaur – a titanosaur that once roamed the forests of Argentina in South America. This replica 37-metre-long cast is three times as long as a bus!

At just under a metre long, the *moganopterus zhulana* had the biggest skull of any toothed pterosaur ever found.

Forming fossils

Today, palaeontologists are detectives, piecing together the story of dinosaurs' time on Earth by digging up fossils. Most **fossils** form when a living thing dies and layers of sand or mud quickly settle on top of it. The soft parts of the body break down leaving the hard parts (such as bones, teeth, shells and horns) behind. Over time, these remains are gradually buried and squashed until they turn to rock. Footprints, eggshells and even poo can become fossils too. In a little over 200 years, palaeontologists have identified over 700 dinosaurs species – not including the thousands of bird species that survived.

The big BOOM!

Dinosaurs are **prehistoric** reptiles. They ruled Earth for 180 million years alongside prehistoric creatures including pterosaurs (flying reptiles) and all sorts of marine animals from molluscs called ammonites to plesiosaurs (long-necked reptiles with flippers). That is until they went extinct around 66 million years ago in a sudden, disastrous event that scientists still can't agree on. Was it an asteroid, or a volcanic eruption? Perhaps it was both? Either way, the world around the dinosaurs would have changed incredibly fast – too fast for them to survive.

Scientists now think *nyasasaurus parringtoni* is the earliest known dinosaur from 243 million years ago. Its forgotten bones were found in a museum storeroom.

You stomp into the next room to see them all!

FRIGHTFUL FOSSILS

The room is packed with fascinating fossils that bring the past to life – from dinosaurs and their preserved poos to marine monsters!

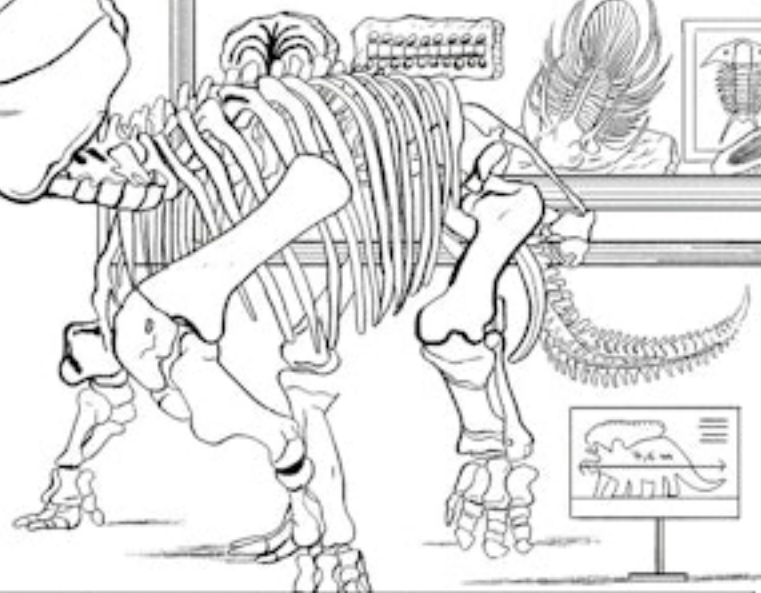


Evolution takes flight

At first glance this might look like a fossilised bird, but it has reptile-like teeth and wing claws. The discovery of this 150-million-year-old *archaeopteryx* fossil in 1861 was a huge moment for scientists as they argued that dinosaurs evolved into birds.

Topped with feathers

Lane is one of the most complete *Triceratops* skeletons in existence, with mummified skin intact. Tiny holes in the bumpy skin tell scientists she may have had feather-like bristles or quills!



You are what you eat!

At 67-centimeters long, this is the world's biggest coprolite (fossilised poo) by a carnivorous animal. Coprolites help palaeontologists better understand a dinosaur's diet. This poo is full of crushed bones as it once belonged to a meat eater known as a *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, suggesting the species swallowed chunks of its prey whole.



Buzzsaw Shark

The shark-like *Helicoprion*, which lived 270 million years ago, had a distinctive spiral-shaped jaw, earning it the nickname 'buzzsaw' shark.



Worm from the deep

Hallucigenia sparsa is a 500-million-year-old marine worm with clawed legs that has puzzled scientists for years. For some time scientists confused its head with its bottom, so imagine their surprise when the microscope revealed a ring of needle-like teeth.

Fearsome frog

Dubbed the 'devil frog', for its huge size and horned head, *Beelzebufo* is a prehistoric frog discovered in Africa. It was about the size of a terrier, with armoured skin and the bite force of a lion, allowing it to prey on baby dinosaurs!

Gone Fishing!

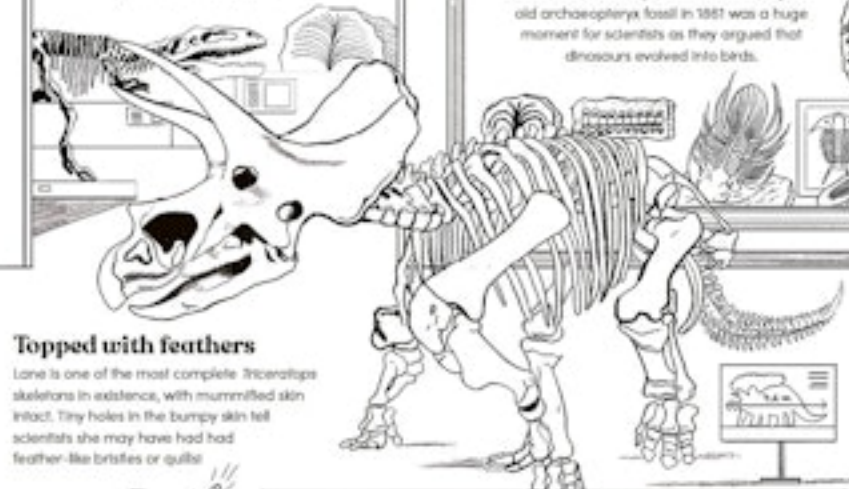
About 155 million years ago, this flying reptile, a pterosaur called *Rhamphorhynchus*, snatched a herring-like fish from the water. It was attempting to swallow it, when – SNAP! – a bigger, pointy nosed fish called a *Aspidorhynchus* burst through the surface and became tangled in the pterosaur's wing. They both drowned, with the little fish still halfway down the pterosaur's throat.



Suddenly, a monstrous rumble makes the fossils shake and your knees knock. You pluck up your courage to tiptoe next door to investigate.

FRIGHTFUL FOSSILS

The room is packed with fascinating fossils that bring the past to life – from dinosaurs and their preserved poo to marine monsters!



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A TOOTHY T. REX!

High up on a mobile platform, a palaeontologist is cautiously unwrapping a T. Rex, who starts purring like a giant contented cat.

Evolution takes flight

At first glance this might look like a fossilised bird, but it has reptile-like teeth and wing claws. The discovery of this 150-million-year-old archaopteryx fossil in 1868 was a huge moment for scientists as they argued that dinosaurs evolved into birds.



Piecing it together

This T. Rex is kind of a big deal. As well as being only one of only a few dozen T. Rex skeletons ever discovered, it was the first put on display in 1915. Although it had a perfect skull, it was still missing bones including four limbs and part of the tail. So palaeontologists borrowed the missing parts from other dinosaurs, completing each arm with three claws. Then, some 80 years later, a T. Rex was unearthed with intact arms and on the end of each... just two claws! And that's how this T. Rex lost two claws.

THE NATURE GALLERY

...Henry the African elephant. At 4-metres-tall, Henry towers above you, with his trunk held high, letting out another blast. All around you dead creatures slowly twitch back to life. Welcome to the nature gallery – a celebration of Earth's biodiversity.

Animal close encounters

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, explorers collected exotic animals from far flung corners of the world for scientific study, and to put on display in museums to the amazement of people at home. It was a chance for a 'close encounter' with an exotic animal. One way to preserve these animals was through the art of taxidermy, which is still practised today.

An animal's skin, muscles and organs are removed, and it's placed in a tank with Dermestid beetles. The beetles get to work laying eggs on the animal's body. As the larvae hatch, they eat the animal's soft tissue, cleaning the skeleton in as little as a week. Once the animal's skin has dried out, it's stretched and shaped over a wire frame to create a lifelike display.

Dermestid beetle larvae are bigger than the adult beetles. And when they grow up, they no longer eat flesh – only pollen!

The skin and skulls on taxidermy specimens are usually real, but reptiles and fish may be repainted and varnished, and lips, tongues, and eyes are often made from glass or plaster.

Taxidermy today

Today animals on display in museums often died of old age and were donated by zoos and wildlife parks, although a few, like Henry, originally came to museums because of trophy hunting – when people hunt wild animals for sport. Specimens like Henry would not be accepted by museums today – times have changed. Those already part of museum collections now provide an invaluable reminder of the threat of poaching – the illegal hunting and killing of animals – and how we must work together to conserve threatened species. Find out more on page 56!

A Japanese spider crab with a leg span of over 5 metres.

A giant clam that once held the world's largest pearl.

Not a sabre-toothed cat but a Smilodon populator. More closely related to a lion, though twice as large!

Henry swings his trunk, and, as you duck out the way, you spot a line of flesh-eating beetles scuttling through the door...

WILD THINGS

Your jaw drops as you take in a wondrously wild collection of plants and animals, including endangered and extinct species. They are just a sample of the variety of life on our planet – from the tiniest flea to a whopper of a walrus!

Big bird

Only two full dodo skeletons exist in the world, helping scientists create 3D models to understand how this extinct species evolved. The dodo had no natural competition on the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, so over millions of years evolved to grow bigger as its wings became smaller. By the time Dutch sailors arrived in the sixteenth century, dodos were flightless.



Cast away

Lonesome George became the last of his kind when he died in 2012; all the other Pinta Island tortoises had been eaten by humans long ago. It's believed George lived for over 100 years on the Ecuadorian island of Santa Cruz off the west coast of America. He's now there once more reminding visitors to live in harmony with nature.

Famously flawed!

This walrus, originally taken from Hudson Bay in Canada in the early nineteenth century and was preserved by a Victorian taxidermist, who had never seen a wild walrus. He unwittingly overstuffed it until there wasn't a single wrinkle left on its body.



It's alive!

Inside Universeum, Sweden's national science centre, a hot and humid rainforest provides a home to sloths, birds, toucans, tamarins, a majestic kapok tree and a thunderous waterfall.



Leafy libraries

In some museums plants are dried and pressed in libraries known as herbariums. They provide a record of different species and how they evolve.

The Thylacine

Known as the Tasmanian Tiger, the thylacine went extinct in 1936, just two months after the Australian government introduced official protection for it.



Dressing fleas

The lost, delicate art of dressing fleas, created by Mexican nuns in the nineteenth century. The fleas were often collected from pets and dressed as musicians, or a bride and groom!

To your horror, you realise something has got you by the leg!
And that something looks an awful lot like...



THE NATURE GALLERY

The room is packed with fascinating fossils that bring the past to life – from dinosaurs and their petrified poo to mammoths and marine monsters!

Big bird

Only two full dodo skeletons exist in the world, helping scientists create 3D models to understand how this extinct species evolved. They've found that around 26 million years ago, this pigeon-like bird lived on the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. With no natural predators it evolved to grow bigger as its wings became smaller. By the time Dutch sailors arrived in the sixteenth century, dodos were flightless.



Cast away

Lonesome George became the last of his kind when he died in 2012; all the other Galapagos tortoises had been eaten by humans long ago. It's believed George lived for over 100 years on the Ecuadorian island of Santa Cruz off the west coast of America. He's now there once more reminding visitors to live in harmony with nature.



Famously flawed!

This walrus, originally taken from Hudson Bay in Canada in the early nineteenth century, is famous for being anatomically wrong. It was preserved by a Victorian taxidermist, who had never seen a wild walrus. This one was overstuffed until there wasn't a single wrinkle left on its body!



WHAT LIES BENEATH

...a tentacle covered in teeth-filled suckers? It pulls you down into the Spirit Room where some 22 million specimens are preserved upside down in jars of alcohol. In the middle of the room is a very long tank. That tank – and that tentacle – belong to tentacle belongs to...

... ARCHIE, the giant squid!

The curator explains that you're stood in a puddle of formal saline, a mix of saltwater and a preserving chemical called formalin that Archie is submerged in. Its fumes are highly explosive and toxic, which is why the tank room is in the basement – the only floor that could support the tank and Archie's enormous 5 tonne weight!

"Quick, grab the mop!"
the curator calls.
"We're sprung a leak!"

Wandering around the room, you learn that giant squid live up to 600 metres below the ocean's surface in the cold, dark depths. Their eyes are as wide as dinner plates to help them see through the gloom. We only know about these fascinating creatures as they have occasionally washed up on beaches or turned up inside the stomachs of dead sperm whales.

So, it's little wonder over the centuries legends of a monstrous kraken grew, a sea creature so big it could sink ships!

And how low tonight scientists that the giant squid's eight arms and two long feeding tentacles are covered in teeth-filled suckers!

Archie was accidentally caught alive in a trawler net off the coast of the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic Ocean in 2004. Weighing over 200 kilograms, she literally broke the scales. It makes her one of the largest and best-preserved giant squid in the world. Each creature is carefully preserved to help scientists better understand how they lived and how we can protect them.



Jars with yellow lids, some from Charles Darwin's five-year voyage on the HMS Beagle in 1831 – they're known as "type specimens" – the original used to describe an entire species!

As the curator plugs the leak, you notice all eyes are on the door. The specimens have spotted something you haven't...

THE HUMAN ORIGINS GALLERY

Standing before you, in all their hairy glory, are just a few of the human-like species that represent seven million years of evolution. Without them, we wouldn't have evolved into the humans we are today. You can't wait to meet the extended family.

The human story

Today, every person on Earth belongs to one human species; *Homo sapiens sapiens* which means wise humans. But how did we get here...

It's the job of scientists called paleoanthropologists to find and analyse prehistoric fossils and artefacts to understand how early humans have evolved. Of course, it helps when on nights like tonight, the subjects come alive!

They're not talkers but they have an incredible story to tell.

Walk this way...

7 to 6 million years ago

The story of our human origins is constantly changing as new fossils are unearthed. But for now, it's thought our story began in central Africa with *Sahelanthropus tchadensis*. These human-like creatures spent time on the ground and in the trees. But as the world around them changed, and the forests became open woodlands, they learned to walk on two legs in search of food.

The 'handy man'

2.3 to 1.4 million years ago

As our ancestors slowly evolved, one of the key moments came when they worked out how to use tools. *Homo habilis* was one of the first fossil species discovered using stones to hunt animals and cut and crush up new foods. It marked the beginning of the Stone Ages. And with tool use giving them the ability to eat better food, their brains began to grow.

Bright sparks

1.8 million to 200,000 years ago

Soon *Homo erectus* figured out how to use fire to stay warm and to warn off predators. And with fire, these bigger-brained humans could cook their food, which gave them more energy. It also made the food softer so they no longer needed to grow such big teeth to crush and chew. *Homo erectus* then used their long legs, to explore wider territories - and eventually the whole world. It wasn't until some 200,000 years ago, that early humans evolved into *Homo sapiens sapiens*. And the rest... is history.

A 1.5-million-year-old handaxe made from green, volcanic lava from Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, Africa.

Toumai is the nickname of the oldest fossilised skull ever found from a member of the human family. It belongs to the *Sahelanthropus tchadensis* species.

In Europe during the late Stone Age, female sculptors are believed to have carved self-portraits known as the Venus of Willendorf from clay, ivory, bone and stone.

You wander into the next room to get to know the other members of your family tree...

MEET THE FAMILY

This room is packed with fascinating, ground-breaking fossils that together they changed everything we thought we knew about human evolution!

One famous fossil

3.8 to 2.9 million years ago

Known as 'Lucy' this female *Australopithecus afarensis* was found by accident in the Ethiopian desert in 1974, when her forearm was spotted sticking out of a gully as though waving. Her skeleton showed that *Australopithecus* could walk upright, although her long arms and curved fingers suggested they were better suited to spending time in trees.



Under Dragon Bone Hill

780,000 to 400,000 years ago

In the 1920s and 30s, over 200 human bones were discovered in the caves of Dragon Bone Hill, near Beijing in China. They belonged to a previously unknown subspecies of *Homo erectus*, known as 'Peking Man'. When World War II broke out, the fossils were shipped to America but were never seen again. Fortunately, casts were made before the fossils were lost and they were used to create these bronze busts.

Neanderthal style!

130,000 years ago

These eagle claws were once strung together to form a necklace worn by a *Homo Neanderthalis* (Neanderthal) during the Stone Ages. Researchers now think, Neanderthals had a sense of style, and as well as making jewellery out of animal teeth and claws, created beautiful cave wall paintings, like those on these walls.

Sticks and stones

2.3 to 1.2 million years ago

Early human-like species known as *Paranthropus boisei* evolved to grow large teeth and powerful jaws to eat harder plant food including nuts, earning them the nickname of 'nutcracker man'.

Starting to look familiar?

1.8 million to 200,000 years ago

The most complete skeleton of an early human discovered to date, is a *Homo erectus* nicknamed 'Turkana Boy', found in Kenya in 1984. With a similar body shape to ours, it proved *Homo erectus* could do more than walk... it could run!

Here be hobbits

100,000 to 50,000 years ago

At around 1 metre tall, *Homo floresiensis* is an unusually short human-like species, with a flat face and chin. This species is fondly nicknamed 'Hobbit' (after the group of short, human-like creatures that appear in author J.R.R. Tolkien's books). It evolved this way after *Homo erectus* made its way, perhaps by boat, to a remote Indonesian island. With little food available, it's thought each generation evolved to be smaller than the last.

You spy snowflakes dancing across the floor in the next room. Pulling your jacket tight, you're transported through time...

A HAIRY SITUATION

... onto the snow-dusted plains of prehistoric Europe. You've unwittingly stumbled into a dangerous situation - a hunt is underway. A huge, shaggy beast looms before you. It's a woolly rhinoceros - as long as a giraffe is tall - and thankfully rather short-sighted, so it hasn't spotted you. Not yet. Quick... HIDE!

Woolly rhinoceroses were fantastically furry! Scientists know this, thanks to perfectly preserved remains, complete with fur, unearthed in the frozen grounds of northern Europe and Asia.

The rhino's ears twitch and you suddenly remember you're in a very dangerous position. Although clearly strong and brave, it's unlikely a Neanderthal could take down such large prey on his own. And that's when he signals at you to join the ambush.



You dive for cover in the grass, landing next to a Neanderthal, who doesn't once take his eyes off the rhinoceros.

In our DNA

Neanderthals are our closest human relatives, with their time on Earth overlapping with the arrival of modern humans. Some of us even have a small amount of Neanderthal DNA! Neanderthals looked a lot like us too, although they had bigger noses to warm and moisten cold air and were a bit shorter and stockier to help keep their body warm when temperatures plunged.

Giving a scared squeak, you immediately alert the rhino to your whereabouts. And with its breath billowing like a cloud around its horned head, it gives an angry snort, and charges!

Your Neanderthal friend safely scrambles to safety as you dive into the next gallery.

The Ancient Civilisations Gallery

Warm sunshine streams through the window behind you. You've entered the Golden Age of Athens, Greece in the fifth century BCE. Five beautiful statues stand before you. They are caryatids, sculpted female figures who once carried the full weight of a temple on their heads. A conservator, whose job it is to preserve and repair priceless objects, hands you a pair of dark goggles.

The sisters are getting a makeover! I'm using an infrared laser to zap soot off their robes, restoring the marble to a dazzling white.



Acropolis means 'high city'. These hilltop settlements were used as forts, palaces and places of worship so were a common sight in ancient Greece. The Acropolis in Athens (built 460-430 BCE) is the most famous and included many beautiful temples.

Six sisters

Six marble sisters once stood as pillars supporting the porch of the Erechtheion, a temple on the north side of the Acropolis in Athens. Each sister was unique with their own facial expressions and hairstyle. They would have been brightly coloured, and may have held gifts to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, warfare and handicraft. By 1979 however, centuries of pollution had damaged the caryatids and they were moved to the Acropolis Museum in Athens. Today, replicas now stand in their place and the sixth sister can be found in the British Museum in London, UK. (learn more about her story on page 57).



Iconic treasures from the ancient past await you in the next room!



Anglo Saxon era
410-1066 CE
This iron and copper helmet was found at Sutton Hoo, England UK.



The Nok Empire
1500 BCE to 500 CE
This terracotta figure is from the ancient Nok farming society of West Africa.

The Viking Age
793-1066 CE
The Lewis Chessmen were Viking chess pieces found in 1831 on Scotland's Isle of Lewis.



Hongshan Culture
4000-3000 BCE
This jade carving is possibly the first depiction of a dragon in ancient China.



THE OLDEN DAYS

Your eyes widen as you take in the incredible artefacts around you. From monstrous statues to fearsome armour, each piece is like a time machine into the ancient past!



Warrior armour

Age of the Samurai (1100s CE to 1800s CE)

The Samurai were skilled warriors who led Japan's military and peacefully ruled the country. They wore armour made from hundreds of metal plates connected with silk laces.

Stone of the Sun

The Aztec Empire (1300s CE to 1500s CE)

With the Sun god Tonatiuh at its centre, the *Piedra del Sol* (Stone of the Sun) was a calendar created by the Aztecs in Mexico. Twice as heavy as a T-Rex it was used to schedule crop planting and harvesting, and possibly as a sacrificial platform!



The lost kingdom

The Kingdom of Benin (1100s CE to 1800s CE)

In the rainforest of West Africa, in present day Nigeria, the Edo people of the Benin Empire built one of the world's first cities. Enclosed by walls four times longer than the Great Wall of China, the king's lavish palace was adorned with sculptures now known as the Benin Bronzes (read more on page 57).



Who goes there?

The Assyrian Empire (1300s BCE to 600s BCE)

In the 800s BCE, a grand palace was built in the Assyrian capital Nimrud, (present-day Iraq). Guarding the palace gates were stone statues known as Lamassu – mythical creatures with a human head symbolising intelligence, a lion's body representing strength and eagle wings for freedom.

Birth of a civilisation

The Roman Empire (20s BCE to 400s CE)

According to Roman legend, two young boys, Romulus and Remus, were abandoned on the banks of the Tiber River in Italy and a wolf saved them, as shown in this bronze sculpture. The boys eventually founded the city of Rome.



The monster in the maze

The Minoan civilisation

(3000s BCE to 1100s BCE)

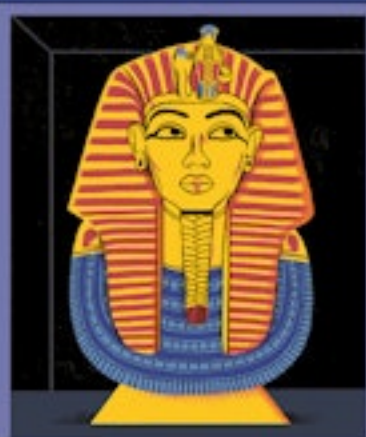
This sculpture from around 400 BCE brings to life the legend of a minotaur that lived in a labyrinth beneath the Palace of Knossos on the island of Crete, Greece.

You hear a loud hammering echoing down the corridor. Frightened, you switch on your torch and bravely step into the Egyptian room.



THE UNLUCKY MUMMY

In the darkness of the Ancient Egyptian Room, the hammering suddenly stops. A deathly silence descends on the room and the temperature plunges. You spin towards a voice in the darkness, your torchlight revealing a glass cabinet. Inside, a stunning mummy board is displayed, intricately carved with images of Egyptian gods and baboons worshipping the sun.



The ancient Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun (1333 to 1323 BCE), wore this gold funerary mask inside his coffin.

Undercover mummies

Mummy boards are richly decorated wooden covers that were placed over a mummified body inside a wooden coffin. They acted as a portrait of the person inside. Some say this mummy board from around 950 BCE, belonged a princess or a priestess. In truth, nobody knows as the actual mummy was left in Egypt along with the coffin bearing her name.

HAVE YOU COME TO GAZE ON THE UNLUCKY MUMMY?

An Egyptologist steps out of the gloom. She's happy to tell you the unfortunate stories linked to the Unlucky Mummy.

Ignore the Mummy Board, she likes to scare the tourists!

MEOW!

Ancient Egyptians believed cats brought good fortune so when the owner died, cats were mummified too so they could join them in the Afterlife.

Mummy of misfortune

Historical accounts suggest the 'Unlucky Mummy' board was bought by four travellers in the 1860s or 1870s. They all either died or were seriously injured after encountering it. It's said misfortune then struck the sister who inherited it, along with everyone in her household too. So, in 1889, the sister swiftly donated the mummy board to the British Museum, where staff claim unexplainable noises come from the board at night.

The museum moved me into this fancy cabinet to see if that would keep me quiet.

IT HASN'T!



Rather than seeing what the Unlucky Mummy is capable of, you quietly edge towards the exit.

The Art Gallery

From one nightmare to another! Suddenly, you're surrounded by massive metal bars. As your gaze travels up, you realise you're not trapped in a cage but standing beneath the towering legs of a spider! But this isn't just any arachnid - *Maman* is a colossal bronze spider, soaring 9 metres high, so it's taller than a giraffe!

A gallerist joins you - their job is to select which art goes on show in the museum and how best to display it.

Mama mia!

Created in the 1990s by French artist Louise Bourgeois, *Maman* (which means 'mother' in French) honours Bourgeois' mother, who, like the spider, was a weaver. But instead of weaving webs, she worked in the textile industry restoring tapestries.

More than meets the eye

Humans have been creating art to express themselves and record their stories since the earliest known drawing on a rock in South Africa some 73,000 years ago. Art movements are a particular style of art followed by a group of artists. From the loose art style of Romanticism in the early eighteenth and nineteenth centuries when artists looked within themselves to express their emotions and love for nature, to the unnaturally bright colours and bold brushstrokes of Fauvism in the early twentieth century.

Maman's coiled metal body holds a sac with precious marble eggs inside.

Spiders can make some people feel terror and disgust, but Bourgeois wanted us to feel awe.

The Surrealist Period 1917-1950

Surrealist artists tapped into hidden thoughts and dreams to reimagine the world in unexpected ways. From a lobster on a telephone to a volcano in the bathtub!



The Impressionist Period 1860s-1886

While many male artists from the Impressionist era painted landscape scenes, an American artist called Mary Cassatt painted the everyday lives of women and children such as *Little Girl in a Blue Armchair*.

As someone who's scared of spiders, you can feel the terror rising, especially when *Maman*'s long legs begin to twitch. You scurry into the next room...

The Big Picture

Each work in this room has been created by people from different cultures at different times, to bring to life, in their own way, the history of humankind.



Sing for your Supper

The Renaissance Period 1300s-1600s

Completed by Italian artist Leonardo Da Vinci in 1498, *The Last Supper* features Jesus Christ's last meal with his 12 Apostles – his closest followers. Some believe it's embedded with a secret song, with each hand and loaf of bread representing a note in a 40 second melody.



Watch your step!

The Baroque Period 1600s-1750

Beware or you might fall through the trapdoor and down the escape slide positioned under this portrait known as *The Night Watch* by Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn. It's said the trapdoor was used to remove the painting in World War II so it could be hidden from inside a secret cave from invading German soldiers.



Look closer...

Persian Miniature Paintings from 1200s-1600s

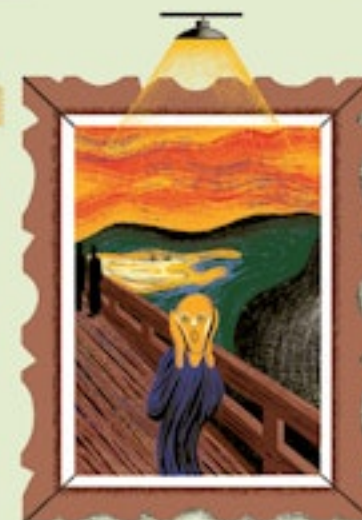
Nighttime in a City from 1540 by Iranian artist Mir Sayyid Ali is an example of a small, detailed style of art developed in Southwestern Asia to illustrate books.



Surprised!

Post-Impressionism era 1880s-1900s.

It's easy to see why this painting earned the title *Surprised!* – a tiger leaps out at you, caught in a sudden flash of lightning. This striking work is by the French artist Henri Rousseau. Around 20 of Rousseau's paintings feature the jungle, which is surprising as he never left France!



The fear within

Expressionism Era 1900s to 1920s

Norwegian artist Edvard Munch painted *The Scream* in 1893, to express his fears. Hidden in the corner are the words: 'Can only have been painted by a madman!'



Free!

American Social Realism Movement, 1920s to 1980s

The paintings of African American artist Jacob Lawrence, share the history and stories of Black life in America. His series of painted panels (including this Panel #4) from 1939 and 1940 celebrate Harriet Tubman, who, between 1850 and 1860, risked her life to free 70 enslaved people. She travelled by night, using an underground network of routes and people to help slaves escape America's southern states.

Paint drips onto your shoulder and you look up to discover the ceiling swirling with colour!

The Big Picture

Each work in this room has been created by people from different cultures at different times, to bring to life, in their own way, the History of humankind.



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Fresco Fiasco!

Six storeys high on a shaky platform, Renaissance genius Michelangelo grumbles as he painstakingly works on his world-famous masterpiece - the Sistine Chapel frescoes in Rome, Italy. The master restorer watches on...

A pain in the neck!

It took Michelangelo four years to paint the masterpiece, completing it in 1541. At the time he was best known as a sculptor, sometimes a poet, but almost never a painter. So, as he stood on the scaffolding, he also created a poem that included the lines 'my spine's all knotted from folding myself over' and 'my face makes a fine floor for droppings!'.

We've been restoring this fresco for 14 years but we had to get the true master back (from the dead!) to touch up a few spots. He's not happy about it!

GAH!
What a pain
in the neck!

From wet to dry

To create the fresco, Michelangelo spread a layer of plaster made from sand and lime onto the walls and ceiling, then painted it while it was still wet so that the plaster absorbed the paint. That's where the name fresco, which is Italian for 'fresh', comes from. As the paint dried, a chemical change occurred binding the plaster and paint together so the image couldn't be rubbed off.

Time takes its toll

Some 25,000 tourists view the ceiling every day, their body heat leaving soft on the frescoes. The master restorer and his team have been painstakingly removing any impurities that might spoil the art by using Japanese paper, distilled water and a brush.

However, some art historians claim Michelangelo painted some of the fresco's finer details (such as eyes) on top of the plaster, and they were then washed off during cleaning. Grrrr!

Suddenly, the blast of a whistle makes you jump. Is it just you, or did that sound like...

THE TRANSPORT GALLERY

...the Flying Scotsman, the world's most famous steam engine! Black flecks of soot fly from the engine room as the locomotive huffs and puffs before you, spouting fire and steam like a green dragon ready to take flight.

Built in 1923, the Flying Scotsman travelled fast – a whopping 160 kilometres per hour. It also went the distance, making an eight-hour daily journey from London to Scotland, crossing the entire length of the United Kingdom. In 1988, it made history as the first engine to travel around the world, reaching Australia on a container ship.

Faster, further, higher

Since early humans first learned to walk upright, they have been on the move. Evidence shows that around 10,000 years ago, our ancestors hollowed-out a pine tree to make the world's oldest known boat, the Pesse canoe. Around 5,000 years ago humans learnt to control horses for travel, then, shortly after, the wheel changed travel forever!

At 97-tonne and 21-metre long the Flying Scotsman is enormous.

All aboard!

The Wright Flyer is the world's first engine-powered plane, piloted by brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright for 12 seconds in 1903.

The world's first motor car was invented by Karl Benz in Germany in 1886.

Onwards and upwards

In the late 1800s, humans made a groundbreaking discovery: they could power engines using oil extracted from the ground. This led to the invention of the first car. Around the same time, humans discovered how to take to the skies in the first glider. After that, there was just no stopping us – even going as far as landing spaceships on Mars!

You hear the tooting of a horn and wander into the next room to see what's making all the commotion.

THINGS THAT GO!

Humans have learnt how to travel by air, by land and by sea, and all around you are some of their most fantastical inventions. There's just no telling where we'll go next!

The secret submarine

In 1901, the British Royal Navy secretly built the country's first military submarine inside a building marked 'yacht shed' to keep the mission secret. That'll fool 'em! After a good run, *HMS Holland 1* finally sank in 1913 while under tow to be scrapped, but she was recovered in the 1980s to be put on display for all to see.

Going supersonic

The Concorde, a supersonic passenger jet, could fly at around 2,179 kilometres per hour: twice the speed of sound! In service from 1976 to 2003, it could fly between New York and London in under 3.5 hours.

Terrifying tiger

Weighing as much as a humpback whale, the Tiger 131 was a tank designed for Adolf Hitler, the leader of the German **Nazi** Party. It could shoot through a vehicle's armour from a kilometre away. Imagine the Allied soldiers' relief when they captured it in Tunisia, Northern Africa in 1943.

Up, up and away

In 1931, brave Swiss scientists Auguste Piccard and Charles Kipfer rode inside this cannonball-like gondola attached to a hydrogen-filled balloon. They soared over 15,000 metres above ground and became the first humans to reach the stratosphere.

Heave ho!

In the 1960s, five Viking ships from the eleventh century were raised from Roskilde Fjord in Denmark, including this 30-metre-long Skuldelev 2 – one of the biggest viking longships. On windless days it would have been powered by 60 oarsmen.

Ticket for change

In 1955, African American seamstress Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on this bus for a white man. This brave act sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott in Alabama. For the next 13 months African Americans stopped riding the buses in protest. The boycott led to a landmark decision by the highest court in America, ruling **segregation** on buses was unconstitutional. This event became a powerful catalyst for the **Civil Rights Movement**.

You're interrupted by the squawking of seagulls next door, and as you peer around the corner...

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RESTORING A TUDOR WRECK

— you come face to face with Henry VIII, the King of England From 1509 to 1547.

You've joined him on the deck of his favourite ship, the Mary Rose. At first it appears as nothing more than a battered wooden carcass, before magically transforming into a magnificent floating fortress, one clearly fit for a king!

I know all about the Mary Rose! It sunk on its maiden voyage, right?



WRONG!
She was a warrior!
How DARE you diminish her accomplishments!

Setting the record straight

Henry has a point. Over the years, a rumour spread that the Mary Rose sank the first time she set sail. In truth, she fought for decades, mostly against the French, only sinking in battle with her French enemies in 1545. It's thought a cannonball pierced her hull, and as the water poured in she tilted to the side and capsized, taking some 500 crew with her. While we still don't know why the Mary Rose sank, in 1982, archaeologists excitedly raised her from the depths of the Solent, the channel between the Isle of Wight and English mainland.

Preserving the wreck

When the Mary Rose was first raised, conservators used common pond snails to eat any wood-eating organisms that lurked in her hull such as crustaceans, bacteria or worms! Today, conservators constantly track the ship's condition, monitoring things like temperature and humidity which could damage and rot her wooden hull.

Nasty nits!

Artefacts pulled from the wreckage, included 82 nit combs — complete with nits!

You spy Henry furiously scratching at his head and realise you're within nit-leaping distance. Your Mum really wouldn't like you to bring home Tudor nits, so you swim to the next gallery.

The Science and Technology Gallery

...the future! Elevators zoom up and down in a space that's impossibly white and bright. And with lots of robots zipping about it feels as if you've stumbled into a new age that's just sparking with fresh ideas and possibilities.



Welcome! I am a humanoid and I will be your guide. How did the robot cross the river? It used a *ro-boat*!

The robots are rising

Humanoids are some of the most advanced robots on the planet, able to talk, show expressions, make gestures and even crack jokes. And although this one's joke function needs tweaking, it shows off the power of human invention to change the way we live!

A far out future!

From the moment our ancestors first sparked a flame and discovered fire, we have been discovering new ways to improve our world – from light to flight! And as our intelligence has grown, so too has the intelligence of the machines we made, to help change our lives too. From 3D printing food and robobees to pollinate our crops to virtual reality smell-o-vision for 4D TV and gaming. Who knows what scientists and inventors will come up with next?

Geo Cosmos is a 6-metre-wide globe. Over 10,000 LED screens update with satellite images that capture Earth's changing weather and seasons.

Freddy the robot was created in the 1970s as the world's first thinking robot with pincer hands, that it used to build a toy car from a pile of parts.

Like the code in a video game, DNA is the information inside your body's cells. It tells your body how to grow and develop. This model shows that DNA appears in two long strands arranged in a spiral called the double helix structure.

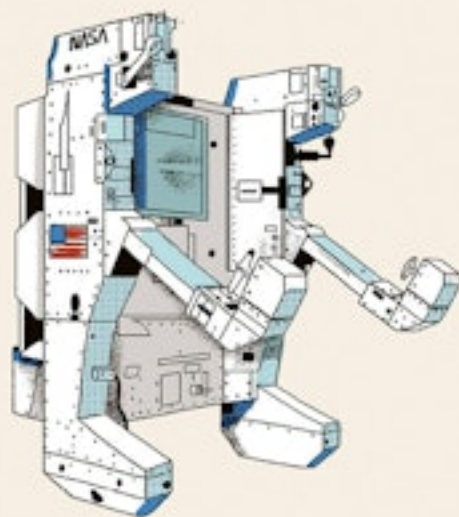
You bound next-door to marvel at amazing discoveries from the past!

The Space Gallery

A scorched hunk of metal is unexpectedly beeping in the middle of the room. It's not scrap though... it's a spacecraft! Your journey into the space gallery has begun!

Mission to the Moon

On 16 July, 1969, three astronauts strapped into this **Command Module** (named Columbia) at the front of the Saturn V rocket and fired into space. Neil Armstrong, Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin and Michael Collins travelled at over 39,000 kilometres an hour – faster than the speed of sound – as they left Earth to become the first humans to walk on the Moon. And as the sun rose over Earth's horizon, they peered out from Columbia's window and realised... they couldn't find their camera!



This jet-powered backpack called a manned manoeuvring unit was developed by NASA in 1964, to allow astronauts to move through space outside the spacecraft.



The Apollo Guidance Computer system on board Columbia was cutting-edge technology at the time, but today are less powerful than a mobile phone!

In 1610 Italian astronomer Galileo turned this home-made telescope towards the cosmos and saw three moons orbiting Jupiter. The discovery led him to support the controversial theory that Earth and the other planets revolve around the Sun.



In close quarters

As the only portion of the spacecraft to return to Earth, Columbia was the astronauts' home for the whole trip. Inside a space barely bigger than the inside of a car, were instrument panels, three adjustable couches and five windows to view the **galaxy**. While Armstrong and Aldrin flew off in the lunar module Eagle to collect rocks from the Moon's surface, Collins stayed onboard, orbiting on the far side of the Moon.

Grateful that Columbia kept him safe, all alone in the dark, he graffitied on the walls:
The best ship to come down the line. God bless her. Michael Collins CMP.



Some scientists think our fascination with space goes back to prehistoric times when early humans created beautiful animal cave art that appears to map the position of the stars.



You head into the next room to discover more about the infinite beyond.

The Final Frontier

From moon dust and space dogs to mind-blowing inventions that have taken us beyond the stars, the objects in this room are truly out of this world!

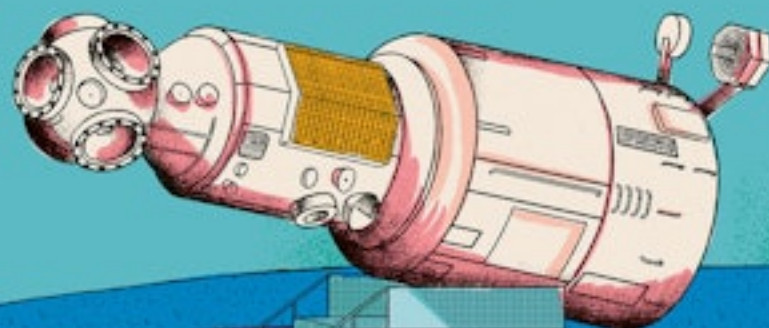
Historic dust

Moon dust is a fine powder that's sharp like glass, covering the Moon's surface. It damages almost everything it touches – from clogging space instruments and tearing spacesuits, to scarring human lungs if inhaled. But here on Earth, museum curators view it as part of history, as it coats the suit that Neil Armstrong wore on his two-and-a-half-hour lunar walk on the Moon in 1969.



Life in orbit

From 1986 to 2001 the Russian Space Station Mir (which means 'peace') could be seen as a bright light in the night sky as it operated in low Earth orbit. It welcomed astronauts from around the globe in pursuit of science, achieving feats such as growing the first outer-space wheat crop!



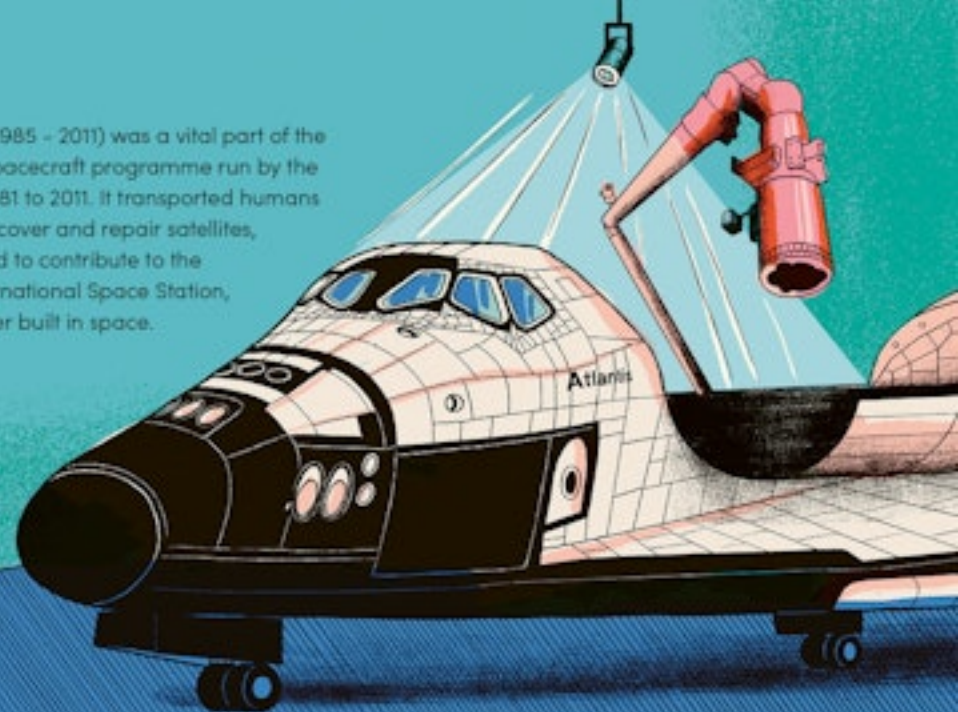
Space dogs

From fruit flies to mice, animals travelled into space long before humans did. Perhaps the most famous are two Russian stray dogs named Belka and Strelka. In 1960 they became the first living creatures to spend a day orbiting Earth in a spacecraft and return safely. Their mission gave the Russian space programme confidence to send humans into space a year later.



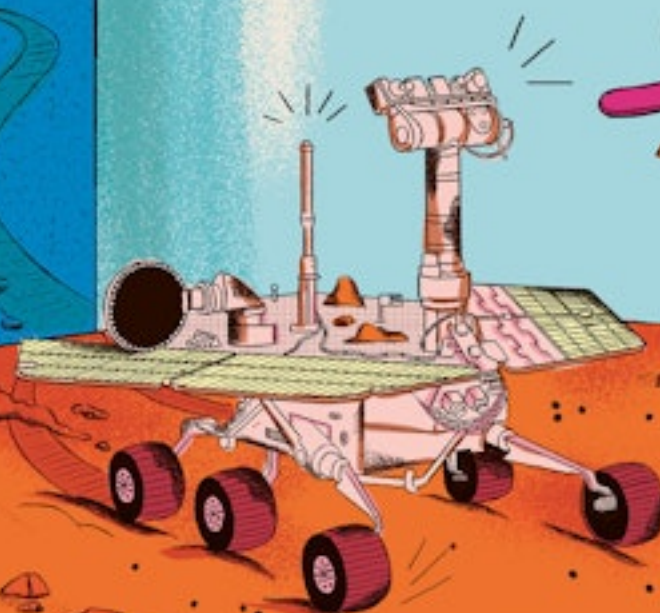
Blast off!

Space Shuttle Atlantis (1985 – 2011) was a vital part of the world's first, reusable spacecraft programme run by the US government from 1981 to 2011. It transported humans into space to launch, recover and repair satellites, to conduct research and to contribute to the construction of the International Space Station, the largest structure ever built in space.



The rover that persevered

The Opportunity Rover was only meant to last 90 days, yet went on to explore Mars' rocky terrain for almost 15 years! 'Oppy' sent pictures back to Earth until it disappeared in Perseverance Valley during a severe dust storm in 2018.



Light years ahead

In the eighth century, Muhammad al-Fazari built the Islamic World's first astrolabe – a scientific instrument used to tell time by mapping the stars.



As you edge closer to the next room your feet lift off the ground, as though floating in zero gravity!

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Out of this World!

You've left Earth far behind as you drift with an astronomer towards the domed roof of the planetarium. A mesmerising band of light is projected above, looking a bit like milk spilt across the sky. It is our home galaxy - the Milky Way.

A milky circle

The ancient Greeks called the milky way *Galaktos Kyklos* which, as its name suggests, translates as milky circle. It's made up of a cosmic spiral of stars, interstellar dust and gas. Scientists suspect it could also hold billions of other planets, just waiting to be discovered!

Eight planets

The Milky Way is made up seven other planets linked to the Sun through gravity: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Venus, as well as their moons and dwarf planets such as Pluto.

Supermassive blackhole

Although you can't see it, at the centre of our galaxy is a supermassive blackhole, called Sagittarius A*, which is four million times more massive than our Sun. It was born when a giant star ran out of energy and collapsed under its own weight, squashing into a tiny but deadly hole. The gravitational pull sucks in everything around it, including light.

Earth is just a tiny speck in this vast space, located somewhere over there!

Woooo, that's worrying - those solar flares are heading our way!

In that moment you narrowly avoid a huge explosion from a solar flare - a bright burst of radiation from the surface of the Sun.

Whooooooosh!

That flare nearly singed your eyebrows! Perhaps it's time to return to the safety of gravity and the ground, as you step into...



The Deadliest Room in the Museum

A curator is pointing a Geiger Counter at pile of artefacts to measure radiation level. And as it goes click, click, click it becomes clear that everything in this room could kill you! Taking no chances, you hurriedly wiggle into a protective suit.

Welcome to Marie Curie's lab

This is the laboratory of legendary scientist Marie Curie. In 1898 Marie, with her husband Pierre, discovered a new element called radium inside a black rock known as pitchblende (or uranite). Marie worked in a shed, boiling ground pitchblende in acid to extract barely a thimble of pure radium in four years of work. The radium was highly radioactive, giving off heat and light, which Marie discovered could help treat cancerous tumours by killing diseased cells faster than healthy cells. Tragically, Marie didn't fully realise the dangers of radiation exposure, as she carried bottles of radium in her coat pocket. This potential cure would also be her killer, eventually causing her cancer.

The curators are tentatively unpacking a new shipment of dangerous artefacts...

CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!

Time to glow

Special glow-in-the-dark paint made the dials and hands on this wristwatch from the 1900s visible in the dark, so that soldiers could tell the time in the trenches.

Deadly glasses

These spy glasses hold a deadly cyanide pill. If caught, a spy could nibble the end of the frame and the pill would deliver a swift death.

A toxic wall

This sheet of wallpaper dating back to 1836 never faded because its green flowers were created out of a toxic metal-like element called arsenic.

Hmm, bit of a problem. The lid has come off this toothpaste.

It's a tube of radium-laced toothpaste introduced in Germany during World War II to make teeth literally glow!

The Geiger Counter suddenly begins to click even faster. As radiation levels climb, a curator sounds the alarm. It's time to retreat to a less radioactive room.

The Earth Gallery

A deep rumbling echoes all around as you step into a room radiating with heat. You've joined the Marvellous Museum's Lava Show - a safe way to see Earth's inner forces at work!

Lava pours from a hole in the wall - at the metal-melting temperature of 1,100 degrees Celsius! A searing hot river slides into an ice trough in the middle of the room. As it touches the ice, it sizzles and steams, just as it would if it touched the icefields in Iceland - home to some of the world's most active volcanoes. A geologist hands you a pair of goggles.

Get ready for the HOTTEST show on Earth!

The world's biggest crystal cluster was discovered deep in a cave in Namibia, Africa. It's 3 metres high and 3 metres wide!

The Sovereign's Sceptre, an ornamental staff from the British Crown Jewels, features the world's second largest cut diamond, the Great Star of Africa.

This monkey jar is carved from volcanic glass called obsidian which forms when lava cools. It's so strong that in ancient times it was used for making tools and weapons.

As lava inches across the floor, you slip into the next room to see what other marvels you can unearth...

How do volcanoes erupt?

It is so hot beneath Earth's surface that rocks melt and form a thick flowing liquid known as magma. This magma collects inside a volcano's chamber, and as gas pressures increase, it forces the magma upward. It erupts through vents and cracks, reaching the Earth's surface, where it is then called lava.

Masterpieces from Mother Nature

Extreme temperatures and pressure beneath Earth's crust has helped form nature's art over billions of years: dazzling rocks, minerals and gemstones. Sometimes these geological marvels make their way up to Earth's surface, other times meteorites fall to Earth from galaxies far, far away.

Why, hello stranger!

The Welcome Stranger was a welcome whopper – the biggest gold nugget ever found, weighing as much as a kangaroo! It was dug up in Central Victoria in 1869 during the Australian Gold Rush.

The Empress of Uruguay

Egg-shaped rocks known as geodes form when a giant bubble occurs in lava. When groundwater gets inside the bubble, it leaves behind minerals that grow into crystals, which, over millions of years, can become amethysts. This 3-metre-high specimen (the world's biggest) was discovered in Uruguay, South America, in 2007, weighing as much as two black rhinoceroses!

Startling slab

The fluorescent Sterling Hill Slab is made up of 90 minerals. It appears to glow under ultraviolet light.

Hope it's not cursed

The only thing bigger than the beautiful blue Hope Diamond are the stories about its curse! It's said that in the seventeenth century, a merchant plucked the diamond from the eye of a Hindu statue in an Indian temple, causing the temple priests to put a curse on it. Since then, it's said the diamond's many owners have each suffered terrible fates.

What a star!

About the size of a golf ball, this milky white sapphire, known as the Star of India, displays something quite rare called asterism – a light trick which means a luminous star can be seen shining in the gemstone's middle. It was stolen from a museum in 1964 when the alarm battery on its display case went flat, and thankfully later found in a bus station!

Huuuuuuuumidity

This massive block of blue azurite and green malachite is known as the Singing Stone because of the unusual humming or squeaking sounds it makes when the humidity changes!

There's a strange sizzling sound coming from the next room, as though someone is frying bacon...

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Is this the end?

It's the sound of a meteor hurtling through the air at tens of thousands of kilometres an hour! This lump of space debris, twice as heavy as a blue whale and almost as old as the Sun, is streaking across the sky. If it hits the earth intact, it will explode with enough force to flatten buildings.

Brace yourself, we're seconds away from seeing history, as that meteorite is coming straight for us!

The Marvellous Museum has bent the rules of time again, whisking you 10,000 years into the past to the moment before the mega Cape York Meteorite exploded into Greenland in the Arctic Circle. Luckily a meteorologist is here to explain what's happening.

A mighty meteorite

Every year, thousands of meteors rain down on us from space but they're normally no bigger than a pebble. It's rare that anything larger makes its way through the atmosphere, but 10,000 years ago the Cape York meteorite did! Scientists have found eight pieces from the famous meteorite and the largest, Ahnighito, weighs an astounding 30,000 kilograms. This massive lump of iron was originally discovered by the indigenous Inuit people of Greenland who used it to carve their tools. Ahnighito is also the biggest meteorite displayed in any of the world's museums, and is so heavy, it's held up by metal poles that stop it from sinking through the floor.

The meteorite speeds towards you until it's close enough for you to see its shiny black surface.

The moment of impact is upon you. You squeeze your eyes shut as the room begins to spin...

BEST. NIGHT. EVER!

... and when you open your eyes, the museum is dark and still. You've survived!



You let out a huge yawn which echoes off the vaulted ceiling like the roar of a *T. Rex* as you wearily trudge back through the Great Hall. Your legs are like two heavy logs - too bad you can't ride out of here on the Flying Scotsman.

Sunlight peeks through the stained-glass windows as you suddenly realise the time. Eight o'clock! Jeepers, you've been here all night, you've not slept a wink, and school starts in an hour!



It was so worth it though. You've packed in some mammoth sightseeing - [120] artefacts from [38] countries. You've been chased by a woolly rhino and had your leg lassoed by a giant squid. You've been frightened by the Unlucky Mummy and shouted at by Henry VIII. You've barely survived floating through the Milky Way and narrowly avoided a river of lava. And along the way you were probably exposed to Tudor nits. Good luck explaining *that* to Mum.



You tuck your ticket safely into your pocket and step out onto the street, taking a wistful last look at the Most Marvellous Museum. And as you trot off to school, you can't help but wonder if the visitors queuing outside will notice the *titanosaur* waving goodbye!

MAKING CHANGES

Most objects found in a museum arrived there because they were bought, borrowed, given as a gift, or found by a museum's own scientists – archaeologists are digging up fossils every day! But there are some that were collected in ways we no longer think is OK.

From the late fifteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, many European nations **colonised** the world. During this time, countless precious items were taken during expeditions and battles, to display in museums. However, many countries and museums now recognise that some of the items found in their collections should be returned to their rightful owners. And that story is now unfolding as museums reimagine their role in a way that is fair for all.



Moai were carved between 1100 and 1650 AD and are believed to hold the spirit of former chieftains.

Giving back

Many precious objects are gradually being returned to their original homes. In 2022, the Natural History Museum in Santiago, Chile returned a carved Moai statue to the Polynesians on Easter Island in the Pacific Island. Around 20 remain in museums around the world.

Precious objects

In 1816, the British government bought the sixth Caryatid (see page 24) and other Greek sculptures from the Scottish nobleman Lord Elgin. They were given to the British Museum for safekeeping. Lord Elgin was given permission to take them from the Acropolis by the **Ottoman Empire** who controlled Greece at the time. However, since 1835 the government of Greece has been calling for their return.



The sixth Caryatid is at the British Museum in London.



In the same year, Berlin's Ethnological Museum in Germany returned 22 Benin Bronzes to Nigeria in West Africa, though more are held in around 160 museums and private collections.

Stuffed specimens

Museums are no strangers to dead things. When taxidermy was at its height in the early nineteenth century, museums eagerly purchased specimens from hunters to add to their collections. Although taxidermy can still be found in museums, and new specimens are still added, animals are no longer killed for that purpose. The law now says they must have died of natural causes. The taxidermy displays seen in museums today are used by scientists for research and provide information on threatened and extinct creatures.



Sacred remains

In the past, human skeletons and their burial belongings may have been discovered during building work or farming, but sometimes they were intentionally removed to display in museums. Now many museums are returning these sacred remains to their true homes.



COMING ALIVE

Museums are marvellous. While they may not literally come alive like the museum in this book, they do bring history to life for hundreds of millions of visitors every year. Museums help us to see our place in the world differently – to ask questions, to challenge our views, and importantly, to learn from the past. But what might the museum of the future look like?

Out of this world!

Incredible experiences

Many museums now offer visitors immersive experiences. From x-raying an ancient mummy, to climbing inside the Soyuz space capsule with British astronaut Tim Peake, to make the hair raising 400-kilometre journey back to Earth. Augmented reality headsets bring animals back from extinction, while virtual reality headsets let visitors step into W. Ekman's painting *The Opening of the Diet 1863* by Alexander II.

Secrets behind the scenes

Most of a museum's collections is tucked away behind the scenes, as there isn't enough space to display everything. Sometimes, the item is so precious it needs to be kept in dark, temperature-controlled storage.

Visitors can now get their hands on VIP passes to glimpse these behind-the-scenes items, such as the precious prints and drawings by Michelangelo and Rembrandt in the British Museum's Study Room.

The British Museum also hides a secret door disguised as a bookcase in the Enlightenment Gallery. It leads to the archive, which holds the museum's historical records.

Covert corridors

A small door between two statues on the second floor of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, hides the secret, almost kilometre-long Vasari Corridor lined with art. It takes visitors through the gallery, over the Ponte Vecchio arch bridge, then snakes along the riverside before ending at the Pitti Palace.

Built on history

Other museum secrets are hiding in plain sight. If you look closely at the travertine stones used to build the Getty Center in Los Angeles, you might spot fossilised bones and leaves. These travertine stones came from the same quarry in Rome, Italy, that provided the stones used to build the Colosseum.

Museum Credits

There are an amazing [TBC] artefacts in the Most Marvellous Museum! This is where you can find them in museums across the planet...

The Dinosaur and Fossils Gallery

1. 'Sophie' Stegosaurus, Natural History Museum, London, England.
2. Titanosaur, Argentina's Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio (MEF), Trelew, Argentina.
3. Moganopterus zhuanq, Belpiao Pterosaur Museum, China.
4. Nyasosaurus, the Natural History Museum London, England.
5. Lone the Triceratops, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Houston, USA.
6. Archaeopteryx, the Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany.
7. Barnum the caprolite, the Virtual Pozeum.
8. Helicoprion, the Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia.
9. Rhomphorhynchus and Aspidorhynchus, the Wyoming Dinosaur Centre, Wyoming, USA.
10. Hallucigenia sparsa, the Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario, Canada.
11. Beelzebub, University of Michigan Museum of Natural History, USA.
12. T-Rex AMNH 5027, the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA.

The Nature Gallery

13. Henry the African elephant, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington DC, USA.
14. Pearl, the Western Australian Museum, Perth, Australia.
15. Japanese spider crab, the Museum of Sea and Life at Sakaiminato in Japan.
16. Smilodon populator, Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary.
17. Lonesome George, a giant Galapagos tortoise, Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, Santa Cruz Island, Ecuador.
18. A complete dodo skeleton, the Durban Natural Sciences Museum, South Africa.
19. Walrus, Horniman Museum, London, England.
20. Living rainforest, the Universeum, Gothenburg Sweden.
21. Herbarium, the Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, France.
22. Thylacine, the Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia.
23. Dressed Bear, the Natural History Museum of Tring, England.
24. Shortfin mako shark head, the Natural History Museum, London, England.
25. Archie the giant squid, the Natural History Museum, London, England.

The Human Origins Gallery

26. Sahelanthropus tchadensis, the Jeongok Prehistory Museum, Yeoncheon, South Korea.
27. Homo Habilis, Museo de la Evolución Humana, MEH, Burgos, Spain.
28. Homo Erectus, Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Leiden, Netherlands.
29. Toumai skull, National Museum of N'Djamena, N'Djamena, Chad.
30. The Venus of Willendorf, The Museum of Natural History, Vienna, Austria.
31. Olduvai handaxe, the British Museum, London, England.
32. Lucy the Australopithecus, the National Museum, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

33. Paranthropus Boisei "the nutcracker man", the National Museum of Tanzania.
34. Turkana Boy, the National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya.
35. Peking Man, the Palaeozoological Museum of China, Beijing, China.
36. Neolithic necklace, the National Museum of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
37. Neanderthal necklace, Croatian Natural History Museum, Zagreb, Croatia.
38. Homo Floresiensis 'Hobbit', The Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia.
39. 'Spike' the Woolly Rhino, Weston Park Museum, Sheffield, England.
40. Neanderthal from Neanderthal Museum, Mettmann, Germany.

The Ancient Civilisations Gallery

41. Caryatids, the Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece.
42. Hongshan Jade dragon, The National Museum of China, Beijing, China.
43. Anglo Saxon helmet, The British Museum, London, England.
44. Nok terracotta statue, the Yemisi Shyllon Museum of Art, Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos, Nigeria.
45. Lewis Chessman, the Museum nan Eilean, Lewis Castle, Scotland.
46. The Benin Bronzes, The Nigerian National Museum, Lagos, Nigeria.
47. Samurai Armour, Samurai Museum, Kyoto, Japan.
48. Piedra del Sol (sun stone), National Anthropology Museum, Mexico City, Mexico.
49. The Capitoline Wolf, Capitoline Museum, Rome, Italy.
50. Lamassu statues, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA.
51. Statue of the Minotaur, National Archaeological Museum, Athens, Greece.
52. The Unlucky Mummy, the British Museum, London, England.
53. Mummified cat, the British Museum, London, England.
54. Tutankhamun's funerary mask, the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, Egypt.

The Art Gallery

55. Maman, Louise Bourgeois, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Bilbao, Spain.
56. Little Girl in a Blue Armchair, Mary Cassatt, The National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C, USA.
57. The Last Supper, Leonardo da Vinci, The Louvre, Paris, France.
58. The Night Watch, Rembrandt van Rijn, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
59. Nightline in a City, by Mir Soygiul Ali, the Harvard Art Museum, Cambridge, USA.
60. Surprised! Henri Rousseau, the National Gallery London, England.
61. The Scream, Edvard Munch, The National Museum, Oslo Norway.
62. Hamlet Tubman Series, Panel #4, Jacob Lawrence, Hampton University Museum, Hampton, USA.
63. The Sixtine Chapel frescos, Michelangelo, the Vatican Museums, Vatican City.

The Transport Gallery

64. The Flying Scotsman, the National Rail Museum, York, England.
65. Benz Patent Motorwagen, the Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany.

66. 1903 Wright Flyer, the National Air and Space Museum, Washington DC, America.
67. HMS Holland 1, the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Portsmouth, England.
68. The Concorde Jet, the Museum of Air and Space, Paris, France.
69. The Tiger 131, the Tank Museum Bovington, Wareham, England.
70. Piccard Stratospheric Balloon, the Brussels Air Museum, Musée Royal de l'Armée et d'Histoire Militaire, Brussels, Belgium.
71. Skudelev 2, The Viking Ship Museum, Roskilde, Denmark.
72. Rosa Parks Bus, the Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Michigan, USA.
73. The Mary Rose, the Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth, England.

The Space Gallery

74. A manned manoeuvring unit, Gwacheon National Science Museum, Gwacheon, South Korea.
75. Galileo's telescope, The Museo Galileo, Florence, Italy.
76. Apollo 11 Command Module, the National Air and Space Museum, Washington DC, USA.
77. Cave drawings at Lascaux International Center of Parietal Art, Montignac, France.
78. Moon dust on Neil Armstrong's space suit, the National Air and Space Museum, Washington DC, USA.
79. Belka and Strelka, The Memorial Museum of Astronautics, Moscow, Russia.
80. Russian space station Mir, the Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics, Moscow, Russia.
81. Shuttle Atlantis, the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA.
82. An astrolabe, the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.
83. A replica of the Opportunity Rover at the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum, Bangalore, India.
84. Planetarium, the Shanghai Space Museum, Shanghai, China.

The Science and Technology Gallery

85. Ameca by Engineered Arts, Scottish National Robotarium, Edinburgh, Scotland.
86. Robodog by Boston Mechanics, Museum of the Future, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
87. AirPenguins by Festo, Museum of the Future, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
88. Geo Cosmos, Miralka, the National Museum of Emerging Science and Technology, Tokyo, Japan.
89. Crick and Watson's DNA Molecular Model, the Science Museum, London, England.
90. Freddy the robot, the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland.
91. Foucault's Pendulum, the Musée des arts et métiers, Paris, France.
92. On the Origin of Species, by Charles Darwin, The Natural History Museum, London, England.
93. Antikythera Mechanism, The National Archaeological Museum, Athens, Greece.
94. Edison's lightbulb, the Smithsonian, Washington DC, America.
95. A replica of a Houfeng Didong Yi seismoscope, the National Museum China, Beijing, China.
96. The enigma machine, the National Museum of Computing, Bletchley Park, England.
97. Marie Curie's office and chemistry laboratory at the Marie Curie Museum in Paris, France.
98. Doromad radioactive toothpaste, Museum of Radiation, Oak Ridge, USA.

99. Radioactive wristwatches, Amgueddfa Cymru, the Museum Wales, Cardiff, Wales.
100. Spy glasses, the International Spy Museum, Washington, USA.
101. Arsenic wallpaper, the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York, USA.

The Earth Gallery

102. To see a show like the Marvellous Museum's one, head to The Icelandic Lava Show, Vik, Iceland.
103. Monkey jar, the Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City, Mexico.
104. The Sovereign's Sceptre, the Tower of London, UK.
105. The world's biggest crystal cluster, the Kristall Galerie, Swakopmund, Namibia.
106. The Singing Stone, the American Natural History Museum, New York, USA.
107. The Hope Diamond, the Smithsonian, Washington DC, USA.
108. The Welcome Stranger, Dunolly Museum, Melbourne, Australia.
109. The Sterling Hill Slob, the American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA.
110. The Star of India, the American Natural History Museum, New York, USA.
111. The Empress of Uruguay, the Crystal Caves Museum, Atherton, Australia.
112. Ahnighito, The American Natural History Museum in New York, USA.

113. Moai statue, Rapa Nui, Easter Island, Ecuador.
114. Sixth Caryatid, British Museum, London, England.
115. The Benin Bronzes, The Nigerian National Museum, Lagos, Nigeria.
116. Soyuz space capsule, the Science Museum, London, England.
117. Augmented reality animals back from extinction, the French National Museum of Natural History in Paris.
118. The Secret Door in the Enlightenment Gallery, British Museum, London.
119. The Vasari Corridor, the Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy.

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With special thanks to Sue Kearney for consulting on the Human Origins Gallery.



Glossary

Afterlife The Egyptian underworld where the dead could live again.

Blackholes Areas of immense gravity in space that no object or light can escape from.

Civil Rights Movement A nationwide movement in America in the 1950s and 1960s to gain equal rights for African Americans and to put an end to racial segregation and exclusion.

Command Module The portion of a spacecraft that carries the chief communications equipment and the crew. It's the only portion of the spacecraft to return to Earth.

DNA The genetic information found inside human cells that provides instructions for the body to grow and develop.

Earthquake A sudden release of energy that puts strain on Earth's crust.

Egyptian Empire An ancient civilisation in Egypt, northern Africa, that lasted from 3100 BCE to 332 BCE.

Evolution The process by which living things change over time. It means they adapt to their environment and can pass these helpful adaptations onto their young allowing the species to survive.

Extinction The complete disappearance of a species – no remaining individuals are left alive.

Fossils The remains or traces of a dead plant or animal, preserved in rocks.

Fresco A wall painting technique applied to fresh plaster.

Galaxy A collection of stars, planets and clouds of dust and gas held together by gravity in space.

Gravity A force of nature that draws two objects towards each other and keeps our feet on the ground.

Indigenous a period of change from the 1700s to the 1900s, when technology and machines changed the way we lived.

Industrial Revolution a period of change from the 1700s to the 1900s, when technology and machines changed the way we lived.

Inuit The indigenous people in the far north of America, including Alaska and Canada and in the Arctic regions of Greenland and Russia.

Minerals Solid substances that are not plants and animals, instead forming naturally in the earth for example crystals or gold

Naturalist A person who studies the natural world.

Nazi A member of the German political party – the National Socialist German Workers' party – that controlled Germany from 1933 to 1945.

Organisms A living thing, such as a plant, an animal or a germ.

Ottoman Empire The former Turkish superpower that ruled much of the Middle East, North Africa and Europe from 1200s to 1920s.

Pharaohs Rulers of ancient Egypt from 3150 BCE to 30 BCE.

Poaching The illegal hunting, trapping and killing of animals or removal of plants.

Planetarium A theatre where images of the galaxy are projected on to the ceiling.

Prehistoric The period before humans had created written records.

Preg A living thing caught and killed by another living thing for food.

Radiation Energy that travels as particles or waves.

Renaissance A cultural and artistic period following the Middle Ages from the 1200s to the 1600s.

Segregation A time from 1849 until 1964 when Black Americans were kept apart from white Americans, forced to attend separate schools, sit in specific parts of restaurants and theatres, to use separate toilets, and to only sit at the back of the bus.

Species A group of living things that share common traits and that breed together to produce offspring.

Stone Age A prehistoric period between 15000 BCE and 2500 BCE when ancient humans made stone tools.

The Milky Way The large spiral galaxy containing Earth along with other planets and stars.

Trophy hunting The unethical practice of killing animals for sport, to display or to take its body parts.

Vikings Scandinavian seafaring warriors from 700s to 1100s.

Museum jobs

Archaeologist A scientist who studies the past by investigating ancient sites and objects.

Astronomer A scientist who studies the universe beyond Earth's atmosphere.

Conservator A person responsible for the repair and preservation of artefacts in a museum.

Curator A person in the museum who manages a collection or artefacts.

Geologist A scientist who studies what the Earth is made of and how it was formed.

Palaeontologist A scientist who studies fossils to piece together the history of life on Earth.

Palaeoanthropologist A scientist who studies ancient humans.

Taxidermist A person who preserves a dead animal for display.



