

Museum of Natural Science – Middle Level Hunt Answers

General Instructions:

- Please divide the class into groups of no more than 6 children in each group. Otherwise, too many children congregate around an exhibit making it difficult to see the exhibit.
- Signs accompanying the displays often contain the answers to the questions. Directions for finding the answers are included with the answers below.
- Some questions have no one right answer. Some depend on prior knowledge or drawing conclusions.
- Questions regarding the toilet, purchasing from the store, finishing the hunt will be directed to the teachers.

Go to the fossil section.

Group
1
Start
here

- Drakoceras and Craginites are types of spiral shell fossils. What is the name of this family of shells? *(These AMMONITES are in the far floor case under the Mosasaur head)*
- Locate the large mastodon, mammoth and elephant teeth. Other than color, how are these teeth alike? *(large, flat)* how are they different? *(One is bumpier than the other)*
What type of food do you think these animals ate? *(Flat teeth are for grinding plants)*
(These teeth are found with tusks in the window case under the mosasaur tail.)



Group
2
Start
here

- Look in the big window. On the large mortality plate, Priscara and Notogoneus fish may have led to the decline/extinction of which animal in the same window? *(In the large window case to the right of the Megalodon jaw, the sign says that they may have contributed to the extinction of Ichthyosaurs)*

- Name 3 animals which lived in the Cretaceous Period, but are not dinosaurs.
1. Champsosaurus (crocodile) 2. Pteranodon (flying reptile) 3. Didelphodon (mammal) or Mosasaur (aquatic reptile)
– Dromaeosaur and Triceratops are dinos from that period, Allosaurus is from another period



Group
3
Start
here

- Look at the skulls of the 2 largest dinosaurs in the center of the museum. Which one is a predator *(Allosaurus)*, which one is prey? *(Triceratops)* Tell why you answered as you did. *(For example: Teeth and eye position)*
- Dinosaurs laid eggs as birds do. In the center display there are dinosaur eggs. Name 3 ways these eggs are different from chicken eggs. *(Found at the end of the center island away from front door)*



1. size

2. shape

3. porous shell (other characteristics are found on the signs with the eggs)

Group
4
Start
here

Go to the shell section of the museum.

- What is the name of the Texas state shell? *(Lightning Whelk)* *(large sign above store and front case)*
- Look in the window labeled "Reproduction." What do whelk shells have in common with chickens? *(Lay eggs)* *(entry door wall, 4th window on left)*



- Group 5
Start here
9. Go through the archway in the shell collection. Look in the window with Edible Mollusks. Name 1 shelled (clam, abalone, scallop, limpet, mussel, oyster, turban, quahog, conch) and 1 non-shelled (cuttlefish, squid, octopus) mollusk that people eat. (*window case in right corner*)



Go to the wildlife section of the museum.

- Group 6
Start here
10. Which flying bird has purple wing feathers? (*Mallard duck*) (*right side, best viewed from end of butterfly case*)
11. Locate the large forest scene. Name 3 different animals which are competing for the same food. For what food are they competing? (*Largest window at back of section*)
1. 2. 3. (*name either 3 plant or 3 meat eaters; they compete for either plants or meat – not a specific food*)
12. Among the butterflies are ones from Brazil and Peru of the genus *Morpho*. What color are they looking from above? (-----) Step back 5 steps and look again. What change do you see to their color? (*Become purple or more iridescent*) (*the case is in the center of the right side group of cases*)



Go to the Rocks and Mineral section of the museum.

- Group 7
Start here
13. Find the Geode display. Geodes are rocks that are very boring on the outside and very beautiful on the inside. Describe or draw a picture of the inside of a geode. (*In the hallway behind the ivory to the right of the black light exhibit*)
14. How are fossils different from rocks? (*There is no sign explaining this - fossils are the remains of something that was once living. A good example is in the second window case on the left in fossils. These are obviously rocks, but also contain the remains of plants and animals.*)



Go to the Hall of Archaeology.

- Group 8
Start here
15. From the Eagle Island Plantation exhibit, name 3 objects someone your age would have used.
1. 2. 3. *Dishes, marbles, dolls, belt buckle, tea set, fork, spoon* (*first window on the right, through doorway under the large painting*)



Go to question 1.