

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Field Trip Activity Worksheet

Your Name:

Group #:

Chaperone Name:

Group Members Names:

DIRECTIONS: Tour the museum, be sure to use your map and visit all the locations listed below. Use the information from the exhibits to answer the questions on the worksheet. You **MUST** stay in your group. Your goal is to get every question correct – IT'S GO TIME!

Ground Floor

Birds of D.C.

→ Check out all of the birds!!!

- 1) How many species of birds are found in the D.C. region?
- 2) What do you think is the coolest bird in the exhibit?
- 3) Explain why many of these birds have such different beak shapes- give and 2 examples.

First Floor

Orchids

→ Explain the purpose of orchid flowers as an adaptation for survival.

Ice Age

→ Did Delaware have the same climate 12,000 years ago, as it does today? Explain.

Ancient Seas

→ What evidence is there that life evolved in the ocean?

Dinosaurs

- 1) What is the name of the largest dinosaur skeleton in the museum?
- 2) What homologies do you see between dinosaur skeletons and a humans?
- 3) Why did the dinosaurs go extinct?

First Floor Cont.....

Hall of Mammals

1) ORIENTATION: What characteristics are shared by all mammals?

2) What are these characteristics called?

3) Explain why all mammals share these characteristics.

→ After you tour the exhibit and visit each continent answer the following question:

Discuss why are the mammals on each continent are so very different. Explain your answer using your knowledge of Natural Selection.

FAMILY GALLERY: Watch the movie in the Evolution Theatre.

1) How old is the oldest mammal?

2) Why is there so much diversity within the mammal group?

Human Origins

1) List as many examples of evidence that you can find that indicates that human ancestors were evolving culture and technological innovations many thousands (even millions) of years ago.

Second Floor

O. Orkin Insect Zoo → Check out the insects!!!!

1) How are bees adapted for survival in a competitive environment where food is only available in the spring and summer?

2) Observe the leaf-cutter ants and explain how they are dependent on other organisms for survival. This is called a symbiotic relationship – how does this occur in nature?

Bones

→ List all of the skeletons in the exhibit that show homologies with the human skeleton.

Reptiles

→ Explain what homologies indicate that all reptiles are related.

Hope Diamond

Pretty cool, huh? 1) How big is the Hope Diamond?

Squid-

→ Can you imagine if this thing were found in the Atlantic Ocean – “the beach” → Oh yeah, it is!