

World Mammals Gallery

Look around first and then read the information below.

Most of the animals in this gallery are specially prepared skins removed from dead animals that died at the zoo. They were treated with chemicals to stop them rotting and then stuffed or wrapped around a plastic model and stitched up. They all have glass or plastic eyes.

Organising the collections

Museum displays are organised around themes.

Have a look around this gallery at the way the animals are grouped.



Question 1

How are the animals grouped?

Question 2

You can group animals in different ways.

In your Museum Record page write the names of mammals that fit into a group of your choosing. You may use a group such as tree-climbing animals or carnivores, or make up your own heading.



How the collection is organised.



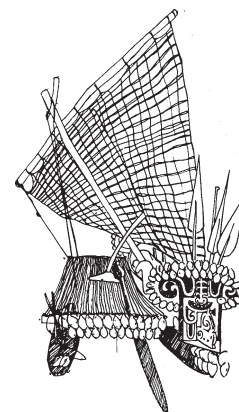
Taxidermist at work

These animals are in a group because they all _____

Pacific Gallery

Look around first and then read the information below.

This gallery is partly a display, and partly a store. It can give you some idea of the huge number of objects the museum holds. It only holds a small part of the museum's collection. Most of our objects are stored in other buildings, in dark drawers and cupboards to protect them.



Records and information

Museum staff keep careful records of all the items in our collections. The records include information about who collected the item, where it was found and other important details.

The staff who look after these objects need to know how to look after wood, skin, feathers, metal and many other materials. Imagine you are one of the museum's staff. Find an object that is made of a number of different materials and record information about it on the Object Report form in your **Museum Record** book.

*Dusting the model hut
(Not a simple job with a precious,
fragile object.)*



*Some of the
Museum's huge
Pacific collections.*



Object Report form

Drawing of object:

Object is made of ...

Object probably used for ...

Any damage?
If so, describe damage.

Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery (First floor)

Look around first and then read the information below.

The museum's collections show us that Australia is not a simple place. It has complicated environments and a complex history.

The Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery helps visitors understand the many different tools, arts and laws that Aboriginal people have used in different parts of the country. Some are still in use today. Others are seldom used any more.

Question 1

Look at the many examples of different kinds of Aboriginal art and decoration. Select one example you like best and describe it clearly using more than 10 words, but less than 20 words.

Question 2

Find the display with the model boats and other toys. When you were younger, which toys would you have liked to play with?

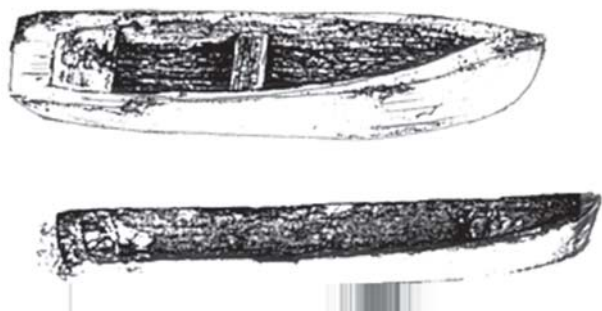


Playing games

Question 1 My description of an artwork or decoration



Bark painting.
One form of art.



Question 2 My Toy

Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery (Ground floor)

Look around first and then read the information below.

For over 150 years people in this museum have been collecting tools and other things that people once used. The collection shows us that people in different times and places did things in different ways.

Look around the ground floor of the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery. It is full of inventions that Aboriginal people used in the days before shops and factories.



Millerum was one of many Aboriginal people who have made objects for our museum.

Invention report

Find a tool or other invention that does the same job as something you have at home. Write down what it does and make a quick sketch of it. In what ways is it different to the item you have at home that does the same job?

Find another tool in the gallery that does the same job as something you have at home. Fill in the information on the Museum Record sheet.



Harry Hillier was one of many people who collected items for our museum.

What job does the object do? _____

Sketch of object.

How is it different to the object at home that does the same job?

Sketch of object.

How is it different to the object at home that does the same job?

Biodiversity Gallery (Marine end)

Look around the underwater display first and then read the information below.

One of the jobs of museum scientists is to make a record of the animals that live in and around South Australia. Scientists have not yet found all the animals that live in our state, so many do not yet have names. This gallery shows some of the marine animals we *do* know about. The displays also tell us how some of these animals lived.

Select one of the white display cases in the Marine display.

Talk about what the display is about and record the most important ideas as dot points in your Museum Record book.



Many fish, reptiles and mammals are kept safe from decay in alcohol.



A small part of the marine invertebrate collection.

Report on a white display case.

The main idea of the case is ...

The most interesting animal in the case is ...

because ...

Biodiversity Gallery (Arid end)

Look around the desert section first and then read the information below.

Museum scientists, and other people, have been collecting animals for so long, that we actually have extinct animals in our collections. These animals were collected before the species became extinct. Find the display of extinct South Australian mammals (behind the curtain with the movie of the Tasmanian Tiger or Thylacine).

Now look carefully at the pictures of extinct animals on your Museum Record page.
Which one is not an extinct South Australian animal?

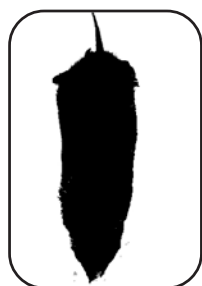


Thylacine

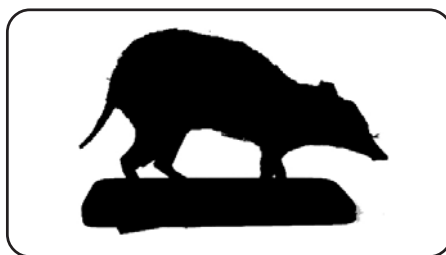


Read the koala's label to find out why a koala is in the extinct animal display.

Which of these extinct animals is not in the South Australian extinct mammal display?



Golden bandicoot



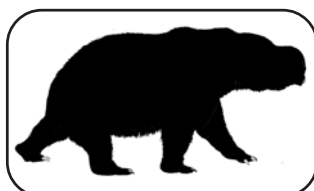
Eastern-barred bandicoot



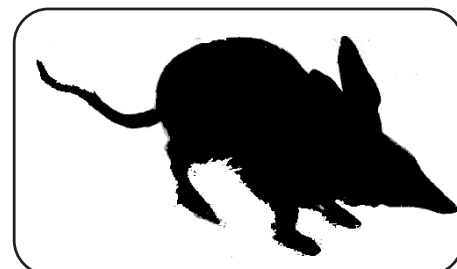
Western quoll



Pig-footed bandicoot



Diprotodon



Greater bilby

Fossil Gallery (North, by the big lift)

Look around at the fossils first and then read the information below.

Scientists from all around the world come to our museum to look at our collections. Different scientists are interested in different things. For example, scientists who study fossils are interested in the Ediacaran (Ee-dee-AK-ran) fossils in this gallery because they include some of the oldest animal fossils known. They were discovered by Reg Sprigg in the Flinders Ranges on Ediacara Station. All animals from this time are now called Ediacaran animals, even if they were not found in Australia!

Can you find the answers to the multiple choice questions in your **Museum Record book**?



This was probably a soft animal that slid along the sea floor.

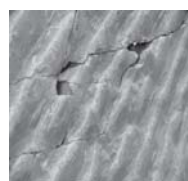


Digging out the fossils takes a lot of effort.



This animal is called ...

- a. *Polymorpha*
- b. *Dickensonia*
- c. *Ablatia*



The fossils in the sea floor that has turned to rock are about...

- a. 500 million years old
- b. 550 million years old
- c. 900 million years old

The fossils in this room are of animals that lived ...

- a. under water
- b. under ground
- c. in trees



This ancient fossil was stolen, but the thieves were caught. Read about the theft on the label by the fossils.

Mineral Gallery

Look around at the minerals first and then read the information below.

Museum collections can help Australians make money. For example mineral collectors can use the museum's collections to help them identify rare and valuable minerals. Museum scientists also experiment with minerals to help understand how different minerals are made. This can assist geologists to identify likely places to find new mineral resources.

Drawing Look for crystals and draw two different crystal types in your Museum Record book.

Question Find the Opal display.
Almost all the opal jewellery in the world comes from Australia.
Look at the opal. Why is it considered so valuable?



Quartz crystals
from the Adelaide
Hills

Surprise:

In this gallery there is a cloud chamber. When it is running it shows the trails of cosmic rays and other particles created by radio-active decay. It is amazing how many rays are whizzing past (and through) us!

Crystal 1

Crystal 2

Opal is South Australia's official gem stone.
Why is it so valuable?

Meteorites are probably the oldest thing you will touch in your whole life!
They are about 4 200 000 000 years old.
Can you find any in this gallery?



Fossil Gallery (Plesiosaur)

Look around at the fossils first and then read the information below.

People at the museum don't just collect specimens, they also study them. In the fossil gallery you can see some of the work they do.



Question 1

Look at the small TV screen. What does it show?

Question 2

Look at the huge photograph on the wall. It shows a South Australian desert where the fossils in this display were found. These fossils do not look like they belong to animals that lived in the desert. How might museum scientists explain this?

Bonus:

If you look around you might find a box with a jumble of bones from a very small baby plesiosaur that has not yet been dug out of the rock.

Question 1 What does the screen show?

Question3

How could museum scientists explain why these fossils were found in a desert?



Sorting broken pieces of a fossil skeleton to start glueing it back together.

Egyptian Gallery

Look around at the artefacts first and then read the information below.

A museum carefully looks after important objects so you can see evidence of what happened in the past. Here you can check out some of the facts you may have heard about life in Ancient Egypt.

*In the spaces in your **Museum Record book** draw quick, neat sketches of the evidence that suggests the sentences below are true.*

1. The ancient Egyptians treated dead people in special ways.
2. The ancient Egyptians thought their gods could turn into animal shapes.
3. The ancient Egyptians liked to make themselves look good.
4. The ancient Egyptians used hieroglyphics (picture writing).



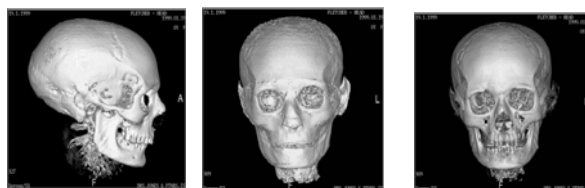
This magic "robot" was thought to come alive in the after-life to be your servant.

Evidence that the Egyptians treated dead people in special ways.

Evidence that Egyptians thought their gods could turn into animals, or part animals.

Evidence that the Egyptians liked to make themselves look good.

Evidence that the Egyptians used hieroglyphics (picture writing).



Scanning through bandages lets us see the body beneath.