

Name: _____

Fossils, Fur, Feathers and Scales

Grades 4th & Up

Read each riddle, look for words that give you clues to what the riddle describes. Then look at the exhibits carefully to find the correct object and write its name on the line next to the riddle.

Upper Level – Natural History Exhibits

1. This lizard is a monster whose scales are orange and black.
It injects its prey with poison when it goes on the attack. _____
2. As bright as a copper coin, this snake is armed for battle.
It is Nebraska's only snake with venom but no rattle. _____
3. These ocean animals build a home that looks just like a brain.
Be careful not to step on one--that would be a pain! _____
4. You can find this dollar down by the sea.
You can't spend it, but it's free. _____
5. These small horses live far from the plains.
They swim with their tails and have no manes. _____
6. This beautiful owl is winter white.
Its wings are silent when it takes flight. _____
7. This colorful butterfly is orange like a flame.
It looks like a Monarch, but they're not the same. _____
8. This vicious cat stalked sloths and mammoths with a toothy grin.
Its strong jaws and massive fangs could pierce the toughest skin. _____
9. To brush this elephant's teeth would really be a chore.
It would take two tubes of toothpaste--maybe more! _____
10. A million years ago this was a tree.
Now it is a kind of rock, you see. _____
11. This cat has whiskers, but doesn't purr.
It lives in the water and has no fur. _____
12. This rare Nebraska fish has a large, flat snout.
It uses its oar-like nose to sniff its food out. _____

13. The pilgrims hunted this bird for their Thanksgiving table.
Once it was threatened but now its population is stable. _____

Main Floor – Mammal Dioramas

14. This clever wolf is rather small--only 30 pounds in weight.
The Roadrunner always leaves him in such a sorry state. _____
15. On starlit nights, the two northern hunters howl.
Stalking mice or moose, they are on the prowl. _____
16. The largest deer, they fiercely fight till one admits defeat.
Water lilies (aquatic plants) are their favorite thing to eat. _____
17. Look for the antelope scratching his ear.
He lives in high places without any fear. _____
18. Bark and salt are tasty treats for this fine prickly fellow.
If you touch his pointed quills, you will surely bellow. _____
19. These small bears are the most common kind.
Their noses are good, but they're a bit blind. _____
20. White as the snow in her arctic home.
Under northern lights her family roams. _____

Answer Key

Upper Level – Natural History Exhibits

1. Gila Monster
2. Copperhead
3. Labyrinthine Brain Coral
4. Sand Dollar
5. Sea Horses
6. Snowy Owl
7. Viceroy
8. Saber-Toothed Cat or Smilodon
9. Mammoth or Mastodon
10. Petrified Wood
11. Catfish
12. Paddlefish
13. Wild Turkey

Main Floor – Mammal Dioramas

14. Coyote
15. Northern Gray Wolves
16. Moose
17. Mountain Goat
18. Porcupine
19. Black Bears
20. Polar Bear