

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Can You Find It? – Natural History Riddles

Grades 4th &amp; Up

Read each riddle and then study the exhibits carefully to find the correct object. Write the answer on the line next to the riddle.

### Upper Level – Natural History

1. These tall, white, endangered birds nearly died out.  
Their Texas refuge helps them survive, no doubt. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Valued for his feathers by some Indian bands.  
He is a symbol of our great lands. \_\_\_\_\_
3. His “horns” are feathers; his eyes are round.  
His wings are silent when he swoops to the ground. \_\_\_\_\_
4. A symbol of our state, this bird can be found  
Tending its nest right down on the ground. \_\_\_\_\_
5. One hundred eight pounds of curvy, rippled white.  
These two shells could close up tight. \_\_\_\_\_
6. They have five points - a kind of star.  
But you could keep these in a jar. \_\_\_\_\_
7. These purple “feathers” did not grow on a bird.  
The ocean deep was their special world. \_\_\_\_\_
8. This reptile’s shell is an “ornate box.”  
He can close it so tight it almost locks. \_\_\_\_\_
9. A million years ago this was a tree.  
Now it is a kind of rock, you see. \_\_\_\_\_
10. This colorless crystal grew quite tall.  
Count each side; it has six faces in all. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Collectors look for this mineral in the ground.  
Chunks with stripes of many colors can be found. \_\_\_\_\_
12. To brush this giant tusk would be a chore.  
It would take two tubes of toothpaste or maybe more. \_\_\_\_\_

13. With a shell like a snail, and as big as a plate.

It's a kind of fossil of ancient date. \_\_\_\_\_

14. This cat has whiskers, but doesn't purr.

It lives in the water and has no fur. \_\_\_\_\_

### Main Level – Mammal Dioramas

15. Striped or spotted, black and white.

These animals would rather spray than fight. \_\_\_\_\_

16. Their woolly coats protect them from the cold.

And they smell quite musky I am told. \_\_\_\_\_

17. Three animals in the case - kind of the same.

The spotted one's short tail gave him his name. \_\_\_\_\_

18. He's called a dog for his barking sound.

His home is a tunnel under ground. \_\_\_\_\_

19. These once were everywhere on the Plains.

Now far fewer of these shaggy beasts remain. \_\_\_\_\_

20. Some live by rivers, some play in the sea.

They float on their backs, as cute as can be. \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

### Upper Level – Natural History

1. Whooping crane
2. Bald eagle
3. Horned owl (any species)
4. Western meadowlark
5. Giant clam shell
6. Starfish
7. Sea plume
8. Ornate box turtle
9. Petrified wood (part of a tree trunk)
10. Quartz crystal
11. Agate or onyx (most obvious choices; other answers may also be acceptable)
12. Mammoth tusk
13. Fossil ammonite
14. Flathead catfish

### Main Level – Mammal Dioramas

15. Skunk
16. Musk ox
17. Bobcat
18. Prairie dog
19. Bison or buffalo
20. Otter