

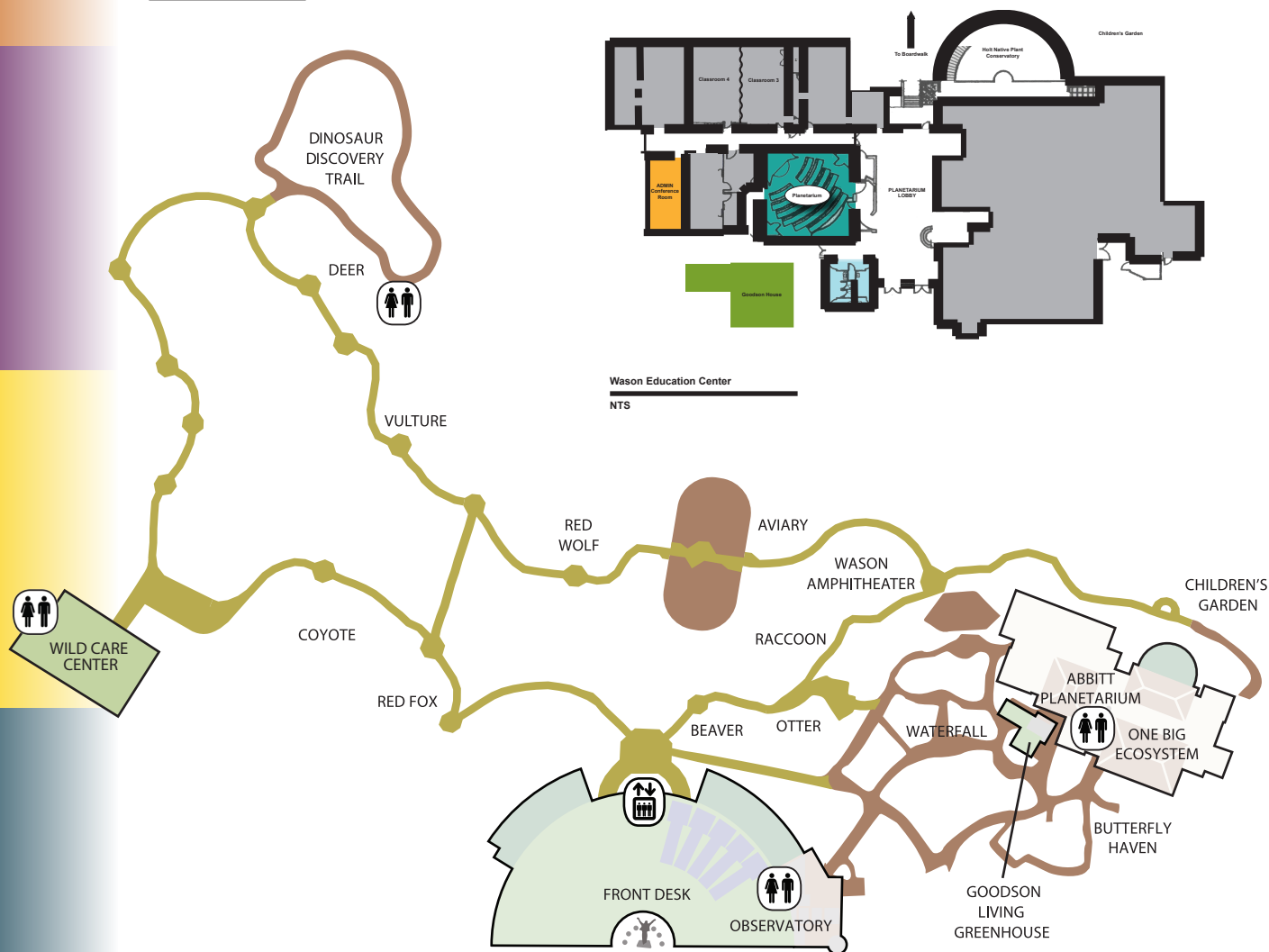
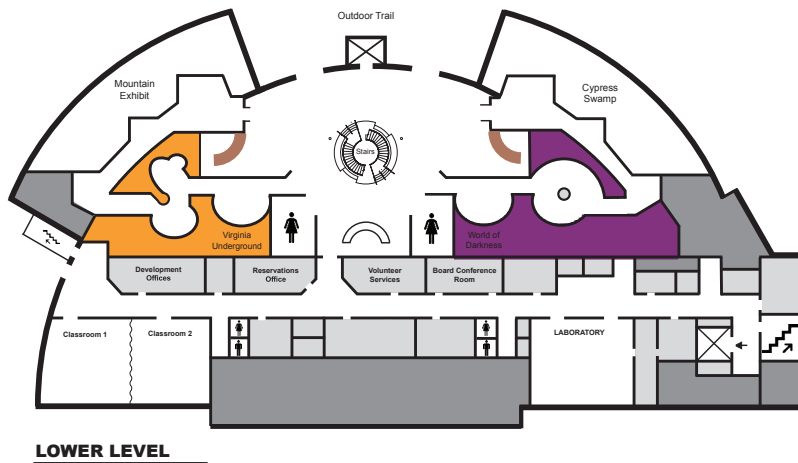
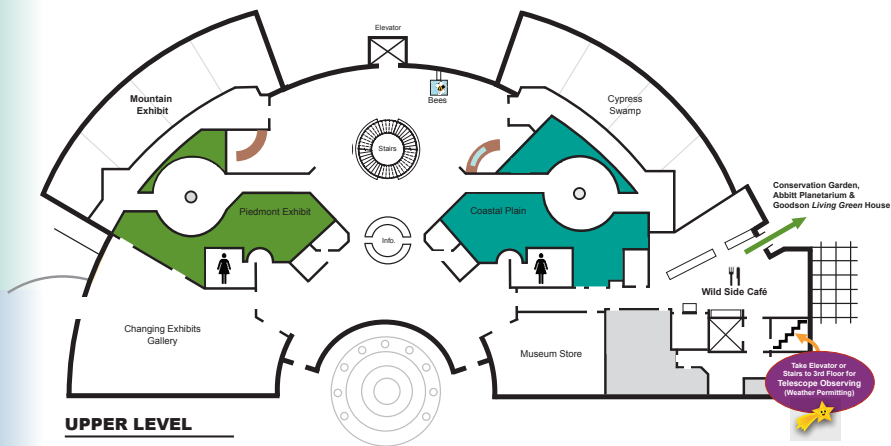
VIRGINIA  
*Living*  
museum



**MUSEUM VISIT GUIDE**

FOURTH GRADE





Please review the following guidelines with your students and chaperones prior to your visit:

## Museum Guidelines

- Respect others in your group and other museum visitors.
- Use indoor voices.
- Walk in the museum.
- No food or drink outside of designated picnic areas.
- Students are not permitted to carry backpacks/large bags in the museum.
- Teachers and chaperones MUST stay with their groups at all times.
- For the safety and enjoyment of all visitors, disruptive or unsafe behavior will not be permitted and may result in the entire group being asked to leave without a refund.

## Respect the Animals

- Do not yell at the animals on the outdoor trail. This includes howling at our coyotes and wolves.
- Do not attempt to touch or feed any animal.
- Do not bang or tap on the aquarium glass.
- If an animal is touched at the Touch Pool, please wash hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Do not climb on exhibits.
- Keep hands out of the aquarium water.

We've listed some suggested activities to conduct with your students before and after your visit.

## Pre-Visit

- Think about 3 animals you can find in your backyard. What would a food chain look like with the three animals you chose?
- How are organisms classified? Why is this important?

## Post-Visit

- Draw your favorite animal from the visit and three things you saw in its habitat. How would it interact with those things?
- Think of one animal you saw during your visit. How are humans impacting this animal or its habitat? What can we do to help?



Use the following guided questions to engage your students throughout the museum.

### Front Desk Schooling Exhibit:

- (4.7) The fish in this aquarium are called schooling fish, or fish that swim together in large groups called schools. Why might it be helpful to swim in schools?

### Cypress Swamp Gallery:

- (4.2) This area of the museum features a lot of live plants to help create a habitat for the animals. What are the three things that plants need to survive?

### Mountain Cove Gallery:

- (4.3) You may notice a variety of different kinds of animals in this area of the museum. What are some interactions you noticed between them?

### World of Darkness:

- (4.7) Take a look at the small catsharks exhibit. Based on their habitat, do you think these sharks live in shallow water or deep water?

### VA Underground:

- (4.8) Why is Virginia's underground so important? What resources can be found there?

### Outdoor Trail:

- (4.6) What season is it right now? How might the season impact how we take care of our outdoor animals?

### Vulture Exhibit:

- (4.3) Vultures play a unique role in the food web. What do vultures eat and why is this role important?

### Pollinator Garden in front of Beaver Exhibit:

- (4.3) Butterflies start out as caterpillars before they metamorphosize. How does their niche change when they become butterflies?

### Wild Care Center:

- (4.2, 4.4) How do animals conserve energy in the winter time? Why do they only do this in winter?



# ANSWER KEY:

## Front Desk Schooling Exhibit:

- (4.7) The fish in this aquarium are called schooling fish, or fish that swim together in large groups called schools. Why might it be helpful to swim in schools? *There is power in numbers! Swimming in large groups can help fish protect themselves from larger predators.*

## Cypress Swamp Gallery:

- (4.2) This area of the museum features a lot of live plants to help create a habitat for the animals. What are the three things that plants need to survive? *Sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide*

## Mountain Cove Gallery:

- (4.3) You may notice a variety of different kinds of animals in this area of the museum. What are some interactions you noticed between them? *Maybe bumping into one another, competing for food, simply no interaction, etc.*

## World of Darkness:

- (4.7) Take a look at the small catsharks exhibit. Based on their habitat, do you think these sharks live in shallow water or deep water? *Deep water because it is dark.*

## VA Underground:

- (4.8) Why is Virginia's underground so important? What resources can be found there? *They are important because they are things we use everyday. You can find rocks and minerals.*

## Outdoor Trail:

- (4.6) What season is it right now? How might the season impact how we take care of our outdoor animals? *Various answers, in summer we may provide more shade from sun, in winter we may provide more shelter from cold, etc.*

## Vulture Exhibit:

- (4.3) Vultures play a unique role in the food web. What do vultures eat and why is this role important? *They eat carrion (dead animals) which helps the decomposition process.*

## Pollinator Garden in front of Beaver Exhibit:

- (4.3) Butterflies start out as caterpillars before they metamorphosize. How does their niche change when they become butterflies? *They eat nectar as opposed to milkweed and they also change from living on leaves to flying around in the air.*

## Wild Care Center:

- (4.2, 4.4) How do animals conserve energy in the winter time? Why do they only do this in winter? *Cold temperatures can be difficult for animals to save energy and find food, so animals like skunks will go into torpor, a state of low activity, to survive the cold.*

