

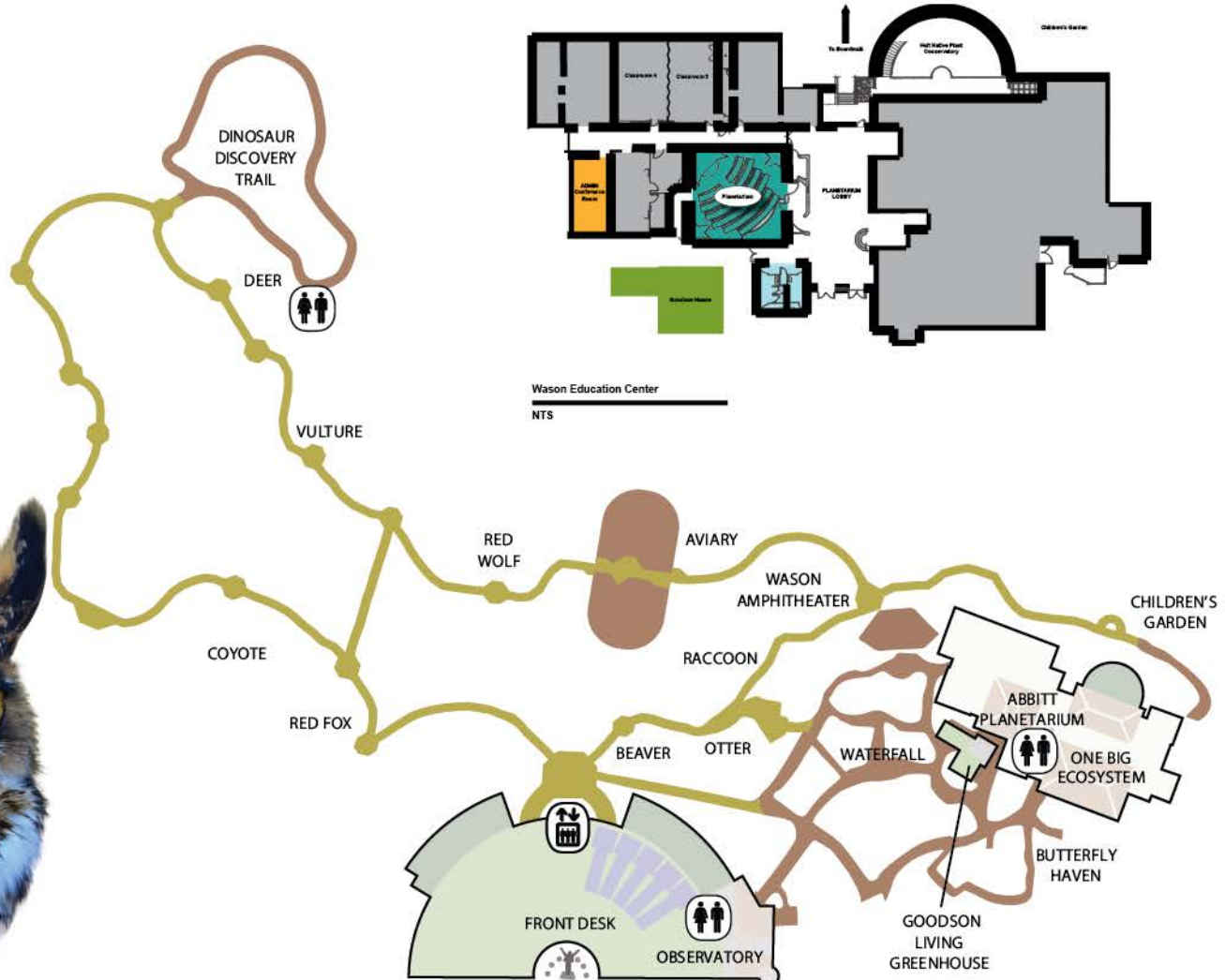
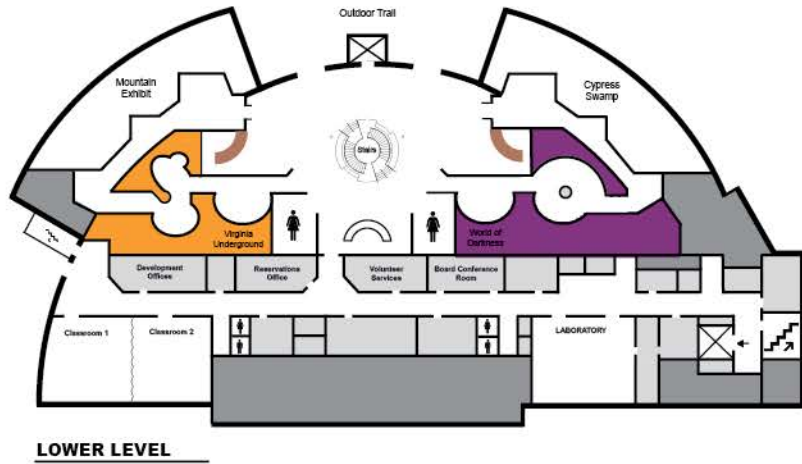
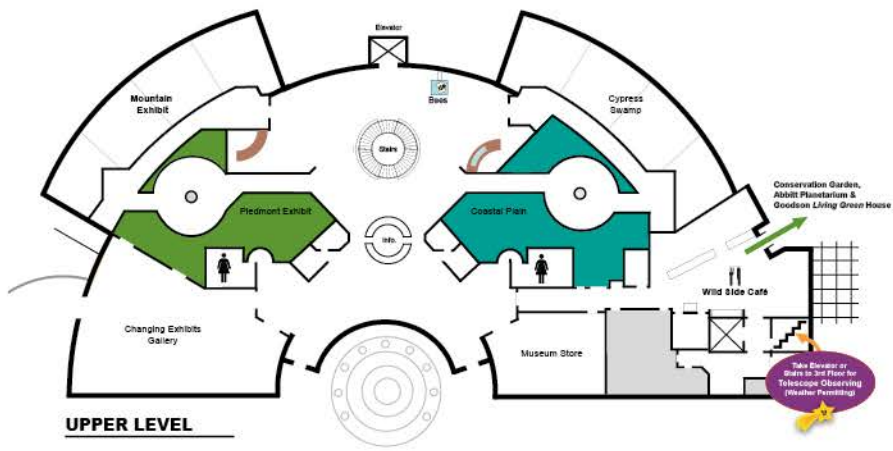
VIRGINIA
Living
museum



MUSEUM VISIT GUIDE

FIRST 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:

- What are the five main things animals need to survive? Design your own animal habitat making sure you have everything the animal needs to survive.
- What does "physical characteristics" mean? What are some examples?

Post Visit:

- What was your favorite animal to see at the museum? What physical characteristics did that animal have to help it survive? What did their habitat look like?



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

Front of Museum:

- Use the sundial to determine the time of day when you arrive and leave. Did your shadow move? ***Make sure to step on the mark for your height.**

Coastal Plains Gallery:

- Observe the flounder exhibit and make a prediction about how many flounders will be on each colored sand. After counting and seeing if your predictions are correct, why do you think the flounders prefer a specific sand color?
- Find an animal that has a physical characteristic that serves a function (i.e. fins, shell, claws). How does this help the animal to survive?

Piedmont & Mountains Gallery:

- Find two animals that look alike. What makes them different? How are they similar? Do they need the same things to survive?

World of Darkness:

- How many frogs do you see in the tree frog exhibit? Compare with another classmate. Did they count more or less than you?

Cypress Swamp Gallery:

- Observe the fish swimming. How do they move their bodies?

VA Underground:

- Observe the different coral species in the coral exhibit. Do they move differently from each other? How do the fish interact with the coral?

Mountain Cove Gallery:

- Observe the plants in the exhibit. Do these plants have everything they need to survive?

Conservation Command Center:

- Name a way that you can help to conserve resources.

Outdoor Trail:

- Pick one of the animal exhibits and find all the basic needs (food, water, shelter, space, air) for the animal to survive. Compare with another exhibit. How are they different? How are they the same?



ANSWER KEY:

Front of Museum:

- Use the sundial to determine the time of day when you arrive and leave. Did your shadow move? ***Make sure to step on the mark for your height** *Yes the shadow moved! The Earth rotates each day making it seem like the sun is moving across the sky.*

Coastal Plains Gallery:

- Observe the flounder exhibit and make a prediction about how many flounders will be on each colored sand. After counting and seeing if your predictions are correct, why do you think the flounders prefer a specific sand color? *Best matches their own coloration and helps them camouflage.*
- Find an animal that has a physical characteristic that serves a function (i.e. fins, shell, claws). How does this help the animal to survive? *Answers may vary. Fins to help swim, shells for protection, claws to catch food, etc.*

Piedmont & Mountains Gallery:

- Find two animals that look alike. What makes them different? How are they similar? Do they need the same things to survive? *Answers may vary. No matter which 2 animals are picked, all animals need food, water, shelter, space, and air to survive.*

World of Darkness:

- How many frogs do you see in the tree frog exhibit? Compare with another classmate. Did they count more or less than you? *Answers may vary. The frogs can be difficult to see due to camouflage.*

Cypress Swamp Gallery:

- Observe the fish swimming. How do they move their bodies? *They move their tails side to side which helps them push against the water and move forward*

VA Underground:

- Observe the different coral species in the coral exhibit. Do they move differently from each other? How do the fish interact with the coral? *Answers may vary. Corals can move in a swaying motion with the current, or be stiff and still depending on the species. Fish will often interact with coral by eating things off of them, or swimming into them for protection depending on the fish.*



ANSWER KEY:

Mountain Cove Gallery:

- Observe the plants in the exhibit. Do these plants have everything they need to survive? *Yes! The plants have water, sunlight, soil, and carbon dioxide.*

Conservation Command Center:

- Name a way that you can help to conserve resources. *Reduce, reuse, recycle, and refuse! Avoid single use plastics, turn off water faucets while brushing your teeth, and play outside more.*

Outdoor Trail:

- Pick one of the animal exhibits and find all the basic needs (food, water, shelter, space, air) for the animal to survive. Compare with another exhibit. How are they different? How are they the same? *Answers may vary. Every exhibit should have the 5 basic needs: food, water, air, space, and shelter. May have more plants or climbing structures than others depending on the specific animal.*

