

TOURING THE MUSEUM

Exhibits in the Museum:

- Dr. Eugene Allen Smith Photo Exhibit
- Skulls and Skeletons
- Alabama's Backyard Critters
- Alabama's State Fossil: Basilosaurus
- Dr. Eugene Allen Smith-Influential geologist in Alabama's history
- 100 year old time capsule
- Coal Age fossils
- Ice Age animals
- Rocks and minerals
- 2010 Tornado outbreak
- Meteorites
- And many more!



Welcome to the Alabama Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama. We are very excited that you are coming to visit us and we cannot wait to show you all of the great things in our museum! While you are here, you will learn about fossils, rocks and minerals, Ice Age animals, Dr. Eugene Allen Smith, and so much more! We look forward to seeing you and showing you the wonders of Alabama's natural history.

A little bit about us- The Alabama Museum of Natural History (AMNH) is part of the University of Alabama Museums and is located on the UA campus in Smith Hall. Though Smith Hall opened in 1910, the museum's beginnings can be traced back to 1831. It is the oldest natural history museum in Alabama, and one of the oldest natural history museums in the nation. AMNH's mission is to broaden the knowledge of natural sciences and human culture through collections and quality programs of research, instruction, and service. Other UA museums include the Gorgas House (also on campus) and Moundville Archaeological Park in Moundville, AL.



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Did you know?

Tours at the AMNH cost \$2 per student and \$2 per chaperone. Teachers are free! For a hands-on component, tour and Discovery Lab is \$5 per student and chaperone.

Did you know?

AMNH offers free parking behind the building (Smith Hall) for museum visitors. Buses and vans can also drop off/pick up students and chaperones at the front of the museum.

Did you know?

AMNH can align tours and activities to your educational needs. Let us know if your class is studying a certain topic, such as fossils or rocks, and we will make sure to focus on that topic.

www.amnh.ua.edu



Suggested Pre-visit activities:

- Brain Pop Jr.-Fossils (K-2)
- Brain Pop– Geologic Time (3-5)
- A Day in the Life of Paleontologist Thomas Carr (5-12)
- Evolution timeline (9-12)
- Questions to think about

Suggested Post-Visit activities:

- Great Cookie Fossil Dig (2-6)
- Make your own classroom museum (K-8)
- Natural scientist journals (6-12)
- Museum exhibit research project (6-12)



Books for Your Museum Trip:

- Bailey at the Museum* by Harry Bliss (K-2)
- Behind the Museum Door: Poems to Celebrate the Wonders of Museums* by Lee Bennett Hopkins (3-5)
- Essential Atlas of Fossils and Minerals* by Parramon Studios (6-8)
- Time or Longleaf* by Roger Reid (6-8)
- The Poetics of Natural History from John Bartram to William James* by Christoph Irmscher (9-12)
- Eugene Allen Smith's Alabama: How a Geologist Shaped a State* by Aileen Kilgore Henderson (9-12)

Be sure to check out the Emmy Award-Winning **Discovering Alabama** Series for wonderful videos on Alabama's natural wonders!



QUESTIONS TO GET YOU THINKING

- Who was Dr. Eugene Allen Smith and why was he important?
- What is Alabama's state fossil?
- What did Alabama look like during the Coal Age?
- What is Alabama's state mineral?
- How does Alabama marble compare to Italian marble?
- What is the most common mineral type found on the Earth?
- What is a pseudo fossil?
- What is the oldest fossils found in Alabama?
- Did Alabama have any dinosaurs?
- What lived in the ocean when dinosaurs were roaming the land?
- What Ice Age animals lived in Alabama?
- How accurate is the movie "Ice Age" in depicting the actual Ice Age?
- What is the largest land mammal alive?
- What mammal has webbed feet, a bill, and lays eggs?
- What are the differences between a frog and a toad ?
- What did the 2010 tornado outbreak look like across Alabama?
- What types of animals live in our backyards?

SUGGESTED POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Great Cookie Fossil Dig– This activity uses paleontologist techniques to “excavate” chocolate chips from cookies. It can be adapted to many grade levels and is a fun way to practice some of the things your students have learned at the museum! (Click on activity name to be directed to the corresponding ALEX lesson plan).

Make your Classroom a Museum- Take the experience of your museum visit home and make a museum in your very own classroom! Decide what type of museum you would like to have as a class. It could be a science experiment museum, a student heritage museum, an endangered species museum, or any other idea your class can come up with. Students will practice research skills, developing exhibits, preparing text, and display techniques. Market your museum to other classes and groups or make a “Night at the Museum” where parents and friends can visit . The possibilities are endless!

Natural Science Journals– Channel Dr. Eugene Allen Smith and William Bartram by creating your own natural science journal. Study the world around you by taking a trip outside and documenting the plants, animals, rocks, and other life around your school. Make sketches of the object and explain in detail its appearance, smell, feel, habitat, and location. Compare your entry to a friend to see if you both observe in the same way.

Museum Exhibit Research Project– Choose an exhibit from the museum for continuing research. Understand what it is, why it is important to Alabama, why the museum might have chosen to display it. Think about how you might expand the exhibit. Does your exhibit relate to others in your class? How might they look together in a museum?