

National Museum of Nature and Science

Museum Guide

Human Beings in Coexistence with Nature

The exhibit encourages us to think about what we can do to protect our home planet, with the goal of working towards a future based on the harmonious balance of the Earth's ecosystem.

Global Gallery The History of Life on Earth

The Global Gallery features an exhibit on the coevolution of the Earth and its inhabitants, along with a history of the development of intelligent thought in humans.

1F

Navigators on History of Earth

Based on the epic themes "History of the Universe", "History of Life", and "History of Humankind", travel back in time and experience 13.8 billion years of history through specimens, documents, and videos. It is the centerpiece that links the exhibition halls of the Global Gallery.

2F

Investigation Technology for the Earth

There are many interactive displays making it possible to instinctively experience the physics related to light and magnetism, which are the foundation of observation technology. And geomagnetism and magnetic fields are explained through familiar phenomena such as compass.

3F

ComPaSS

Exploration area for families with children

It is necessary to purchase tickets and book dates and times in advance on an external website.

This exhibition room is designed for children and their parents or guardians. It encourages parent-child communication through play, aiming to foster the abilities of feeling and thinking.

1F

Biodiversity

The evolution of life on Earth has produced some 10 million different species. Although all the species share the basic characteristics of living organisms, each species has adapted in form and lifestyle to its own particular environmental circumstances. No species lives in isolation; our lives are intricately interwoven.

2F

Progress in Science and Technology

This exhibit showcases some Japanese inventions from the Edo period onwards. Japanese culture maintains its unique identity and its close communion with nature, while at the same time having interaction with foreign cultures.

3F

Animals of the Earth

The diversity of mammal and bird life on Earth is proof of the bountiful nature of the Earth's ecosystem. The specimens presented here still convey something of the strength and endurance of these species.

B1F

Evolution of Life

-Exploring the Mysteries of Dinosaur Evolution-

Today, reptiles and birds are quite different animals. Studying dinosaurs however bridges the gap between the two. There are countless mysteries including the origin of dinosaurs, their increase in size, diversification, and their extinction. How much can we learn from the silent testimonies of fossils?

B2F

Evolution of Life

- From the Earth's Origin through Human Existence

Since their beginnings some four billion years ago, life forms have become increasingly diverse due to the ongoing process of environmental adaptation. Human beings, part of the mammal group have acquired highly developed adaptive capabilities, thanks to superior dexterity and powers of reasoning. This adaptive capacity has enabled humans to extend their reach to all corners of the Earth. In this exhibit, you can trace the evolutionary path and learn how plants and animals have adapted to the changing environment.

B3F

Exploring the Structure of Nature

The vast universe, the mystery of life along with its components, and the laws that govern these ... Our understanding of these things is the foundation of all scientific recognition. Discoveries that have widened our view and changed our understanding of nature along with the people who contributed to these are introduced.

Japan Gallery The Environment on the Japanese Islands

Exhibited here in this Japan Gallery are the nature and history of the Japanese Islands, the evolution of its endemic organisms, the process by which the modern Japanese population was formed, and the history of our contact with nature.

1F

South

closed

Techniques in Observing Nature

The people of the Japanese Islands have been sensitive in observing the richness and diversity of nature around them since the beginning of their history. Our daily life in harmony with nature has also enabled us to acquire uniqueness in manufacturing and industry. Tools, instruments, crafted objects and literature handed down from their own time to the present, demonstrate our activities in the fields of science and technology.

2F

South

Organisms of the Japanese Islands

Through the repetition of glacial and interglacial cycles dating back about 1.7 million years, the variety of these living organisms migrated from the continent to the Japanese Islands by crossing the strait, which had turned into land during the glacial stage. During the interglacial stage, when they were cut off from the continent by the ocean, these living organisms achieved their unique differentiation as they adapted to the transformation of the natural environment of the Japanese Islands, with its varied climate and complex topography.

3F

South

Nature of the Japanese Islands

From a geochronological viewpoint, the Japanese Islands underwent rapid fluctuations due to crustal movements, and these led to the formation of complex geological structures and a rich mountainous topography. The Japanese Islands have four distinct seasons and are strongly affected by monsoon and ocean currents. The complex topography and climate of the natural environment has given rise to diverse forms of life.

1F

North

Exhibition hall (for temporally exhibition)

Various short-term exhibits or events will be held here every season.

2F

North

Japanese People and Nature

Around 40,000 years ago, our ancestors encountered a land rich in forests and oceans at the eastern edge of Asia, and they began to settle in the Japanese Islands. Thereafter, various other groups of people brought their distinctive cultures to the islands. These peoples came together while still maintaining particular aspects of their culture. Our ancestors skillfully interacted with the natural environment of the Japanese Islands through the invention of pottery, the cultivation of plants and other techniques.

3F

North

History of the Japanese Islands

On the Japanese Islands, with their complex and unique geological history, numerous species have repeatedly appeared, flourished, and become extinct. The evidence of these past lives entombed in layers of rock tells of this dynamic and changing history, from the time the Japanese land mass first split away from the continental margin to when it formed an archipelago.

B1F

THEATER360

A visual facility that projects a 36-degree view of images and videos, providing a one-of-a-kind experience of weightlessness and impact. Enjoy the original programs we have in store for you.

Some visitors may experience disorientation or discomfort due to the floating sensations or sense of speed created by the unique format of the show. Particular care should be taken with small children, visitors who are not feeling well, expectant mothers, senior citizens, and those who have a heart condition.

Intoxicated persons, unaccompanied preschool children, and groups of preschool children are not permitted to enter.

B1F

Foucault Pendulum

In 1851 the French physicist Foucault used this type of pendulum to prove the rotation of the earth.

Central Hall

Japan Gallery building

The construction of the building, which has a unique Neo-Renaissance style architecture by the Ministry of Education then, was completed in September 1931. It has the shape of an airplane that was a symbol of the state-of-the-art technology in the early Showa Era when this building was constructed.