

Welcome Chaperones! Thank you for choosing to spend time with your child's class at the Museum. Your role as chaperone is essential to ensuring that your group has a positive experience. To help you get started, this guide asks questions about exhibits in the main building — the Nature Exploration Center (NEC) — that are related to students' curriculum. You also can help students find answers to their OWN questions by reading exhibit labels and talking with Museum staff. Remember: students must stay with chaperones at all times.

## First Floor

### Find the Coastal North Carolina gallery

Find the maritime forest display.

- 1 Live oak, yaupon holly, and wax myrtle are three common trees in this habitat. What protects the leaves of these trees from salty spray?

### Find the North Carolina Natural Treasures gallery.

- 2 Find the block of Mount Airy granite, North Carolina's official state rock. What is it used for?

## Second Floor

### Find the Mountains to the Sea gallery

Go to the savanna area, and find the carnivorous plants. These insect-eating plants often grow in soils low in nutrients (similar to vitamins). These plants get extra nutrients from the animals they trap and digest.

- 3 Choose one of the five species of carnivorous plants. How does this plant catch insects?
- 4 Are carnivorous plants producers, consumers or decomposers?

## Third Floor

### Find the Prehistoric North Carolina gallery

Go to the Mesozoic Triassic landscape.

- 5 Identify a carnivore and an herbivore. How do they interact with each other?
- 6 Find another example of a carnivore and an herbivore in the Prehistoric North Carolina gallery.

## Fourth Floor

### Find the Arthropod Zoo

Find the display with the models of the four insect heads, across from the giant beehive. Different kinds of mouthparts allow insects to eat different foods.

- 7 (Read the options one at a time. Let the students match the model to the description.) Which insect has:
  - A. Strong mandibles that crush and chew?
  - B. A long tongue with a spoon on the end, perfect for lapping nectar?
  - C. A long, sharp tube to pierce your skin and drink blood?
  - D. A solid, flat, moplike tongue with tongue tubes for slurping?

For more information on planning your visit, please visit the Museum's website: [naturalsciences.org](http://naturalsciences.org).

## Answers to questions

- 1 A thick, waxy layer called a cuticle.
- 2 Buildings, monuments, gravel for roads and other construction.
- 3 Venus' flytrap — traps close; pitcher plant — insects fall in; sundew — insects get stuck; butterwort — insects get stuck; bladderwort — insects are sucked into underwater trap.
- 4 They are producers because they carry out photosynthesis.
- 5 Carnivores: Rausuchid or Ruitodon; herbivores: Placerias.
- 6 Various answers.
- 7
  - A. cockroach
  - B. honey bee
  - C. mosquito
  - D. house fly

