

GALLERY RESOURCE GUIDE

The R.B. Annis Naturalist's Lab

Grades: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Earth and Space Science

Academic Standards:

Science: 3.2.2, 3.2.4, 4.2.3, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 7.2.8, ES.5.3, ES.5.6

Overview:

Get a closer look at the natural history of Indiana and other parts of the world by visiting the R.B. Annis Naturalist's Lab. This hands-on classroom comes equipped with a variety of activities geared toward exploring the natural world. Guests use computer interactives to make animal calls, explore differences between fossils and non-fossils, and browse various science related websites. As naturalists, guests use microscopes to view specimens, study footprints to identify animals, and see types of Indiana wildlife.

Gallery Highlights:

- > **Analyze Indiana:** Use this computer interactive to search through information about Indiana's natural history, view the amount of seismic eruptions around the world in the last 40 years, and watch seismic waves travel across the globe.
- > **Microscopes:** The microscope is one of the most valuable tools to scientists. Gain experience with this equipment by examining specimen like a snakeskin, insect leg, and paramecium.
- > **What is a Fossil?:** Become a paleontologist by exploring the differences between fossils and non-fossils through this computer interactive.
- > **Look and Touch:** Naturalists collect various specimens for further research. Students can touch and examine specimens such as turtle shells, tree leaves, fossils, rocks, and minerals.
- > **You Make the Call:** Try to simulate the vocalizations of various Indiana animals in this computer interactive. Students record and listen to their interpretation of an animal call and then hear it done by an expert.
- > **Foucault Pendulum:** Watch above you as the pendulum swings with the rotation of Earth through the ceiling of the R.B. Annis Naturalist's Lab.

Key People, Events or Terms:

- > Paleontologist
- > Seismic eruption
- > Seismic wave
- > Specimen
- > Naturalist
- > Fossil
- > Environment
- > Natural history
- > Animal vocalization
- > Earth's rotation
- > Animal adaptations

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Workshops, Lesson Plans, and Special Events:

- > Indiana Fossils lesson plan
- > Fossils workshop
- > On Expedition workshop
- > Rocks and Minerals workshop
- > Fossils family backpack
- > Wildlife family backpack
- > Homeschool Day – Indiana Ice Age
- > Indiana Ice Age Animals education trunk
- > Geofest Festival

Discussion Questions:

- > Ask students to compare and contrast an archaeologist and paleontologist. Do their jobs ever overlap? What type of work does a naturalist do? What resources would a naturalist use?
- > What is a fossil? What can fossils tell us about the natural history of Indiana?
- > Why is it necessary to help protect Indiana's wildlife and the environments in which they live?

