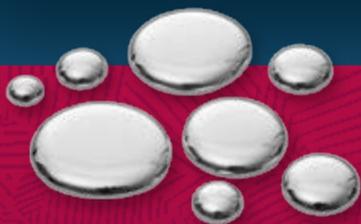


VISITOR'S GUIDE



THE POWER OF POISON

indianamuseum.org/poison



Look for
LIVE poison frogs,
a tarantula,
and more!

1 Poison in Nature

Many of the plants and animals that live in the Chocó forest use poisons to survive.

Match each organism with its adaptation:



golden poison frog



fat-tailed scorpion



zebra longwing caterpillar

a. Unlike its larger, big-clawed emperor cousin, this arachnid mainly uses its stinger — and deadlier venom — for defense.

b. This critter's bright color and sharp spines warn predators away.

c. This creature gets its intense toxicity from something in its diet, probably beetles.

2 Poison in Myth & Legend



Which of these stories contains a kernel of truth ?

Where could the poison have come from ?

Why are stories about poison so compelling ?

Which story do you want to read ?

3 Detecting Poison

The mid-1800s saw the birth of modern forensics. In this **live presentation**, explore how poisonings work.



4 Poison by Accident

It's your turn to **be a forensic detective**. Figure out what poisoned a family pet, a famous British captain, and a barred owl.

Could chocolate have made the dog sick?

5 Poison for Good

Poisons can harm, but some can be powerful medicines.

Test your knowledge with this quiz.

- A drug made from this animal's venom treats Type II diabetes:
 - pit viper
 - gila monster
 - emperor scorpion
- A handful of yew tree needles can kill, but a chemical found in its bark is an effective:
 - anti-cancer medicine
 - blood thinner
 - burn ointment
- A drug made from cone snail venom:
 - is a powerful pain killer
 - reduces appetite
 - is antibacterial
- Clostridium botulinum* bacteria can:
 - cause muscle paralysis and suffocation
 - stop wrinkles and muscle spasms
 - both of the above



- KEY:
- Live animals
 - Video
 - Interactive
 - Case/Display

Did you know?

The word “**pharmaceutical**” comes from ancient Greek words that mean **poisoner, sorcerer, or one who gives medicines**.



The Power of Poison

indianamuseum.org/poison

Explore exhibition highlights, including poison's paradoxical roles in nature, human health and history, literature, and myth.

OLogy

amnh.org/explore/ology

The Museum's website for kids ages seven and up, including a poison quiz and video interviews with scientists about toxins.

Science Bulletins

amnh.org/explore/science-bulletins

Watch the documentaries "Caving for Cures" and "Fish Biodiversity Protects Coral Reefs."

In the Home: Poison Proof Your Home

www.aapcc.org/prevention/home/

Clear instructions from the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

Indiana Poison Control Center

indianapoison.org/

Basic information, safety tips, and resources for parents, teachers, and children.

ASPCA: Animal Poison Control

aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control

Tips on keeping your pet safe — and how to deal with an emergency.

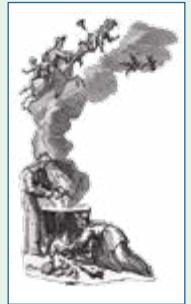
What's on the cover?



The leaves of the **passionflower** contain cyanide. The poison is only released when an insect is chewing on

the plant. Longwing caterpillars have evolved the ability to feed on this toxic plant.

Long ago, would-be **witches** made "**flying ointments**" whose ingredients, like opium poppies, could cause trances, sleep, and stimulating dreams.



The days of mad hatter's disease are over. So how do people still get mercury poisoning? **Mercury** from natural sources and from pollution ends up in oceans — and in our seafood.

Toxins in **black mamba** venom that block pain signals in the nervous system may lead to new pain medications.



CREDITS

The Power of Poison is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (amnh.org)

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