

# Field Museum

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**Location:** 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr. Chicago, IL 60605

**Admission Rates and Hours:** <http://fieldmuseum.org/visit/admission-and-hours>

- As of October 2013, the Field Museum has a limited number of Discount Days: <http://fieldmuseum.org/visit/field-museum-discount-days> Otherwise, basic admission is \$15, and Chicago residents should receive a \$2-4.50 discount, depending on the type of admission purchased.

**Field Museum Online Collections:** <http://fieldmuseum.org/explore/our-collections> Keep in mind that exhibitions are subject to change at the discretion of the curators.

## Questions for the exterior

1. Examine the exterior of the Field Museum. Can you identify any elements of the architectural design with previous architectural traditions?

What architectural influences do you observe in the exterior? Where?

What changes did the architects make from those historical influences?

## Questions for the interior

2. List all the human cultures represented by artifacts in the galleries that you saw today.

Place a star next to those that had more than 5 artifacts representing them.

List any human cultures you can think of that were not represented by any artifacts or by fewer than 5 artifacts in the galleries.

Based on your observations, do you detect patterns about which cultures' creations are collected by the Field Museum and which are not?

Draw conclusions about what you think might account for this disparity in the Field Museum's collections of creations made by humans.

3. Of the works of art and artifacts that you saw in these galleries today, which was your favorite, and why?

Identify the artist name, title, and date:

What did you like about this work of art? How did it make you feel, and what did it make you think or wonder? Did the artist of this work do anything that you found particularly new or innovative?

4. Of the works of art and artifacts you saw in these galleries today, which was most difficult to understand or appreciate, and why?

Identify the artist name, title, and date:

5. If you were asked to curate an exhibit for this cultural institution, what would you recommend and why?
6. Did you feel like you got more out of just looking at objects, reading text about them (either on the label next to the object or elsewhere on the walls), watching one of the films or listening to audio segments, or a combination? Why?

How can you adapt your study routine and approach to normal class work to take advantage of what you learned about your learning style and preferences today?

### **Questions to begin during your field trip and continue working on after you leave** (it may help to take photographs—without flash—if photography is allowed in the galleries)

7. The Field Museum is a natural history museum. Based on what you saw today, formulate a definition of “natural history.”

What does the term include, and what does it exclude?

Based on the definition you suggest, are there any of the museum’s collections that should be excluded from a natural history museum?

Based on the definition you suggest, are there any collections that you think the museum should add to its holdings?

8. Using terms of biological classification (see your textbook and other HWC library resources), how many kingdoms are included in the museum displays you saw? Which ones?

Properly apply two of the other ranks of biological classification (phylum/division, class, order, family, genus, species) to describe the organisms you saw in ONE display (of your choice). What details did you pay attention to in order to help with identification?

9. Select one of the objects intended for human use that is on display in the museum. Imagine that you are a member of the culture responsible for making that object. Write a journal entry (at least 7 complete sentences) describing a day in your life, and be sure to incorporate the object into your activities.

In it, describe what you think, feel, and also what your senses (sight, sound, taste, smell, touch) convey to you.

After you write your journal entry, underline at least two passages and explain how those passages are supported by the details you observe in the artifact or by what you know about the historical context.

10. How did the Field Museum get its name? Conduct research using HWC library resources.