

# Museum of Science and Industry

---

**Location:** 5700 S. Lake Shore Dr. Chicago, IL 60637

**Admission Rates and Hours:** <http://www.msichicago.org/visit-the-museum/museum-info/>

- As of October 2013, there are no regular free days offered to Illinois residents. Basic admission for a Chicago resident is \$15.00
- Keep in mind that exhibitions are subject to change at the discretion of the curators.

## Questions for the exterior

1. Examine the large, central set of doors (you cannot actually enter the museum through these doors). What is depicted on them?

Which of the symbols and/or terms inscribed on the door best fit the theme of the museum? Which fit least well? Why?

## Questions for the interior

2. Select one of the planes on display that was used in World War II (by either the Allies or Axis Powers). What is the plane called, and which side flew it?

Describe the decorations on the exterior of the plane: the symbols, colors, etc.

Which decorations do you think serve more of a functional or utilitarian purpose? Why?

Which decorations do you think serve more of a symbolic purpose?

Draw one of the symbols and describe what you think it meant in its particular placement on the airplane and why.

3. Of the exhibits and artifacts you saw in these galleries today, which was your favorite object or display, and why?

Identify the title, date, and describe it: \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 exhibits and artifacts you saw in these galleries today, which object or display was most difficult to understand or appreciate, and why?

Identify title, date, and describe it: \_\_\_\_\_

5. 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)

6. Look at the names inscribed around the ceiling in the Main Level 2 Transportation Gallery (room with the trains and airplanes). Do you recognize any of them?

If so, whose name do you recognize, and what did that person accomplish?

Nominate someone currently living whose name you would recommend adding to this group of historical figures.

Justify your selection with research about your nominee's accomplishments.

7. Select one of the Medical Innovations on display in the "Hi Tech Human" section of the "Body Slices/Medical Innovations" exhibit to research using HWC library resources. Who invented it and when? How is it used?

Are there any ethical debates about its use?

Imagine that you use one of those devices. Write a journal entry (at least 7 complete sentences) describing a day in your life.

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 design of the object or by what you learned about its use and development.

8. What is one of the exhibits that features human body parts/remains?

Provide three points that you could use to construct an argument about why those

remains SHOULD be kept on display in the museum (Pro):

Now provide three points that you could use to construct an argument about why those remains SHOULD NOT be kept on display in the museum (Con):

Which argument do you think is stronger, and why?

Are there other pieces of information you would want to add in order to strengthen your argument on either side? If so, what? Conduct research to find an answer to at least one of your questions.

9. In the “What If?” section of the museum, describe one invention featured that you would like to use in your life and explain why:

Describe one invention featured in the exhibit that you would like to avoid using yourself or would like to prohibit other people from using, and explain why:

Do you have a suggestion for a future innovation? What would it offer people that we don’t have already?

If you were to bring this vision to life, what additional education or training would you need to pursue?

Whether your goal is inventing this or pursuing any other career path, identify the next step you need to take to move toward that goal.

Identify people or institutions that can help support you as you work toward this goal. Conduct research using HWC Library resources.

10. Examine the exterior of the Museum of Science and Industry building. Using your textbook and/or class notes, identify at least one aspect of the building that is derived from ancient Greek temple architecture:

Identify at least one aspect that is derived from ancient Etruscan temple architecture:

Identify at least one aspect that is derived from ancient Roman temple architecture:

11. Using HWC Library resources and the “Yesterday’s Main Street” section of the museum, research the history of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair (aka the Columbian Exposition). What role did this building (now the Museum of Science and Industry) play in the Fair?

How is its current role similar to its role in the 1890s?

How is its current role different from its role in the 1890s?

In the course of your research, what is one other detail you learned about this site or about the Fair in general that you found interesting or confusing?

Based on what you learned, formulate a question for future research.