



Forest Explorers

Hints for Teachers

MUSEUM INFORMATION:

Forest Explorers is a scavenger hunt that is designed to be used in the New England Forests exhibition in conjunction with the Welcome to the Forest Discovery Program, however, it can also be used independently. It asks students to find plants and animals who live in different places in the forest.

- The museum does NOT provide copies of Forest Explorers. Please prepare copies for your students.
- The New England Forests exhibition displays living things in their appropriate environment. For example, a flying squirrel can be seen in the branches of a tree and cattails can be seen growing from the ground.
- While exploring the exhibition, encourage your students to look above their heads to see displays on upper tree trunks and branches.
- The New England Forests exhibition can accommodate 10-15 children at a time. For larger groups, consider splitting into smaller sub-groups when completing the Forest Explorers activity.
- When your students arrive at the museum, they will be given a brief greeting by a museum staff member. After this greeting is a good time for you to talk to your students and chaperones about the Forest Explorers activity.

PREPARING AN ACTIVITY:

- Make photocopies of the Forest Explorers activity for your students. The museum will NOT have copies available.
- Forest Explorers asks students to draw pictures of things they find. Provide your students with crayons or pencils for their drawings. Markers are not allowed in the exhibits.
- The museum asks that students refrain from leaning on any of the glass cases while drawing. We recommend providing students with clipboards or notebooks to lean on.
- Forest Explorers has a brief set of directions printed at the top for chaperones to use. For more chaperone information, please see the Forest Explorers Chaperone Sheet. We recommend photocopying this sheet for chaperones or discussing the tips with them.

IN THE CLASSROOM:

Extend the fun! Talk about forests and what living things you find there back in the classroom.

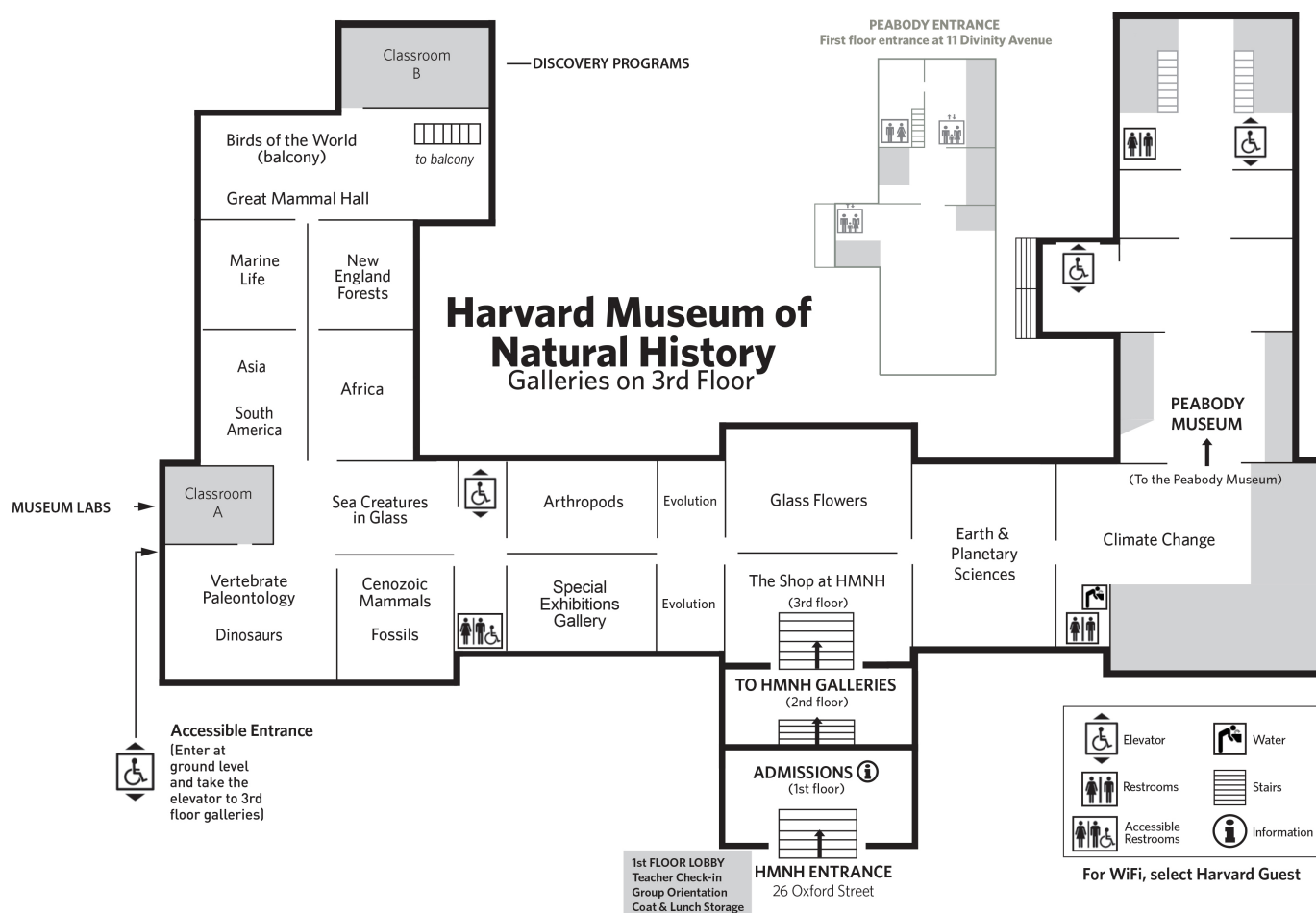
- Hide pictures of forest plants, fungi, insects and other animals around the classroom for your students to find. Discuss how scientists group living things (plants, animals, etc.) and make categories or a chart using the pictures.
- Compare the forest to your classroom, schoolyard or neighborhood. What do you find up high, in the middle, and down low in each place?
- Explore other habitats such as deserts and oceans. Provide your students with pictures of different habitats and ask them to draw or collage an animal (real or imaginary!) that might live there.

Forest Explorers

Information for Chaperones

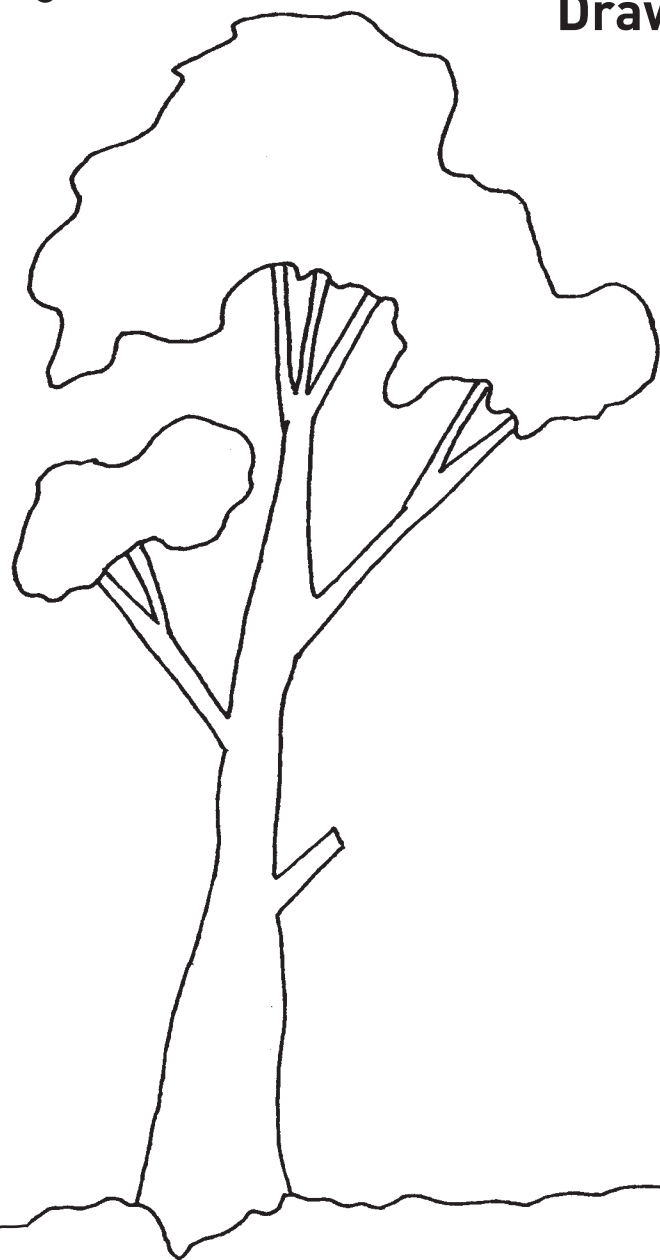
DIRECTIONS:

- **Complete this activity in the New England Forests exhibition.**
- Many things live in forests, including plants, animals, insects, and fungi (mushrooms). This activity asks your students to find things living **in trees, on the ground, and under the ground, and draw them.**
- Please allow your students a few minutes to explore the New England Forests exhibition before beginning the Forest Explorers activity.
- The goal of this activity is for students to look closely at the New England Forests exhibition. Accurate drawings are not expected from most children of preschool or kindergarten age. You may wish to label students' drawings to help the students remember what they drew.
- Your students can find these things in any order. Ask your students to look around the New England Forests exhibition and draw what they find.
- Remind your students to look all around them, even above their heads, to spot living things.
- Remember: The glass cases in the museum are fragile. Please remind your students to lean on the floor or their leg while drawing. Do NOT lean on the glass cases.



Name _____

Draw something that you find....



In a tree

On the ground

Under the ground