

Women in Science at NHM

Meet some of the amazing female scientists who work at the Natural History Museum while you explore our exhibit halls!

This Women in Science Scavenger Hunt was made possible in part by a grant from the Santa Monica/Westside Legacy Fund for Women and Girls

NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



Alyssa R. Morgan (she/her) is Collections Manager of Mineral Sciences at NHM. One of her specialties is planetary geology or astrogeology, which is the study of geologic processes in space.

1. Head to the Gem and Mineral Hall (Level 1)

Find the touchable meteorite that was found in Arizona. What does it feel like? What more do you notice?



Dr. Amy Gusick (she/her) is Associate Curator of Anthropology at NHM. Her current research focuses on the ways early humans migrated and settled along the coasts of the Pacific Ocean, including nearby regions like Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

2. Make your way to Becoming Los Angeles (Level 1)

In the first room, find the outline of a boat. What materials were traditionally used by Gabrieleño/Tongva and Chumash ancestors to construct their plank canoes, or *ti'ats* and *tomols*?

Visit the portrait wall highlighting Native people that live in Los Angeles today. Do any of the cultural items being held or worn by the people in these photos use any of the same materials as the *ti'at* or *tomol*? Which one(s)?



Erika Durazo is Senior Paleontological Preparator at NHM. She regularly participates in fieldwork which has taken her to Utah, the Mojave Desert, and the Petrified Forest in Arizona.

3. Visit the Dinosaur Hall (Level 1)

Find the video screens showing scenes from past digs. What tools do you see paleontologists using to excavate?

Would you be interested in going on a dig? Why or why not?



Lila Higgins (she/they) is Co-Senior Manager of Community Science at NHM. They help connect museum scientists with regular people in the community, to study and learn about nature in our city!

4. Head to the Nature Lab (Level G)

Go to the back of the exhibit and look at the illustrations on the tables called "Nature Memory Maps" Can you think of a time you had a memorable nature experience? Use the space below to make your own Nature Memory Map!



Dr. Jann Vendetti (she/her) is Associate Curator of Malacology at NHM. Jann uses museum collections to learn about mollusks. She also leads the Snails and Slugs Living in Metropolitan Environments (SLIME) project, where community members help NHM study slugs and snails by sharing what they see!

5. In the stairwell, leading from outside the African Mammal Hall (Level 1) to the Hall of Birds (Level 2), is a collection of marine mollusc shells.

Find the largest shell and the smallest shell; what species are they from?

Largest: _____

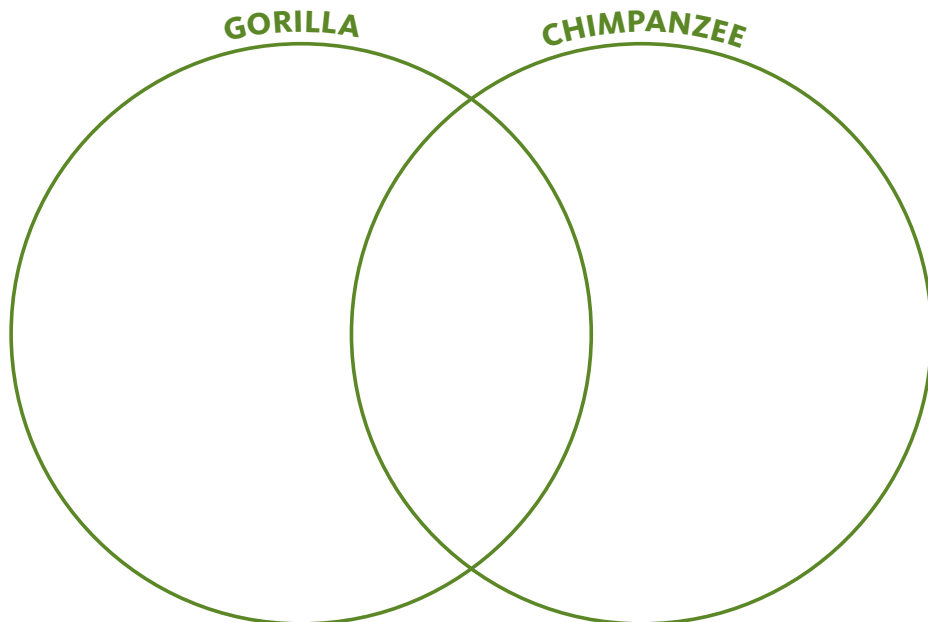
Smallest: _____



Dr. Shannen Robson (she/her) is Collections Manager of Mammalogy at NHM. Her research has focused on primates and small mammals, and their response to changes in climate.

6. Head to the African Mammal Hall (Level 1)

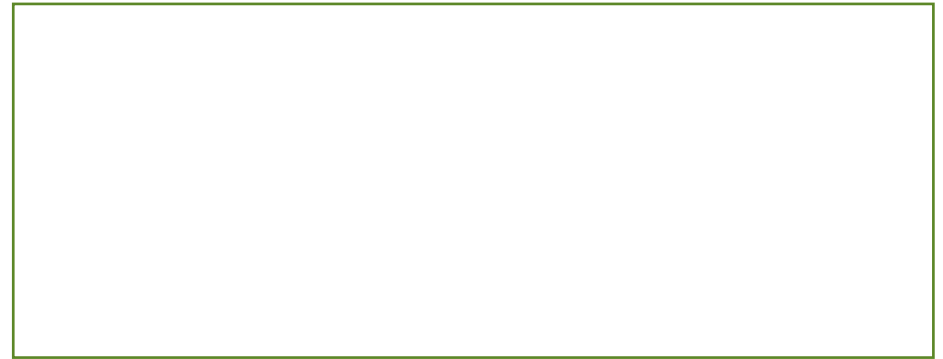
Find the gorilla and chimpanzee dioramas. Look closely at both, then use the venn-diagram below to compare and contrast the two species.



Dr. Allison Shultz (she/her) is Assistant Curator of Ornithology at NHM. Her research has focused on how and why bird feathers are the colors that they are—like how some birds have bright colors to stand out, while others use colors to help them blend in!

7. Head to the Hall of Birds (Level 2)

Find a bird with plumage (or feathers) that stands out to you. Sketch it, then add labels that point out its colors, describe size, etc.



Lisa Gonzalez (she/her) is Assistant Collections Manager of Entomology at NHM. Lisa helps run the BioSCAN project, studying the amazing, and often incredibly tiny insects that live in Los Angeles and capturing beautiful close-up photos of them!

8. Head to the back of the Discovery Center (Level 2)

Find the wall of close-up insect photos taken for the BioSCAN project. Which one is your favorite? Why?

Now that you've learned about the animals, objects and stories featured in the museum and the scientists that study them, what's something you'd like to learn more about?

This activity celebrates the amazing women doing science at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, inspired by the work of British ethologist and activist Dr. Jane Goodall. Learn more about Dr. Goodall in *Becoming Jane: The Evolution of Dr. Jane Goodall*, a new exhibition organized and traveled by the National Geographic Society in partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute.