

California Academy of Science Self-guided Field Trip

Part I

Turn right as you enter the Steinhardt Aquarium from the courtyard with the dolphin fountain. Walk past the turtle and fish tanks toward the tide pool display. Turn left at the ramp up to the Fish Surround and follow the signs to the exhibit called “Life Through Time,” which is threaded through a series of rooms that follow the progress of organic evolution through a succession of geologic periods.

Examine the contents of each room and for each room respond to the following:

- Create your own new and appropriate title for it.
- What span of time does the room cover? (e.g. from 300 million to 150 million years ago)
- What was the earth like physically during that period?
- Describe briefly and specifically one major evolutionary event of that period.
- What is the main evolutionary concept that the room exemplifies?

Part II

Return to the displays of living animals and focus on their locomotion. Collect as many different variants on “how-to-get-about” as you can. Organize them into a table, naming each animal and briefly describing its motion. Be carefully observant and more detailed in your descriptions than, “It swims,” since there are many different styles of swimming, even among related animals (trigger fish, tuna, sting rays, sea horses and electric fish all do it differently; porpoises, penguins, and turtles even more so).