Hayden and Rose Center exhibit hunt

Explore the physical Rose Center galleries through models, a meteorite, and clues about our universe.

Families and curious explorers ages 8+ | Suggested activity time: 45 minutes

For parents and teachers: Print separately from the student worksheet. These are reference answers, not a score sheet. Accept accurate wording and thoughtful observations. Displays can change; an unavailable exhibit is a valid skip.

1. Scales of the Universe

Find the comparison where the Hayden Sphere represents the Sun. What everyday fruit represents Earth's size at that scale?

Expected answer: A grapefruit. This comparison applies when the Hayden Sphere stands for the Sun.

AMNH: Scales of the Universe (reviewed 2026-10-29)
https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent/scales-of-the-universe

2. Scales of the Universe

Now find the comparison where the Sphere represents our whole galaxy. What sports ball represents a typical star cluster within it?

Expected answer: A baseball, when the Hayden Sphere represents the Milky Way galaxy.

AMNH: Scales of the Universe (reviewed 2026-10-29)
https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent/scales-of-the-universe

3. Harriet and Robert Heilbrunn Cosmic Pathway

Find the marker for the human era. The thickness of what tiny everyday object represents that stretch of time?

Expected answer: One human hair.

AMNH: Harriet and Robert Heilbrunn Cosmic Pathway (reviewed 2026-10-29)
https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent/cosmic-pathway

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Continue exploring. Use exhibit labels and your own observations.

4. Willamette Meteorite

Read the meteorite's story. In which U.S. state was it found, and how many tons does it weigh?

Expected answer: Oregon; 15.5 tons. The Museum also presents the meteorite's name and continuing cultural significance to the Clackamas people and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

AMNH: The Willamette Meteorite (reviewed 2026-10-29)
https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent/the-universe/planets/planetary-impacts/willamette-meteorite-t%C9%99man%C9%99was

5. Black Hole Exhibit

Read the Black Hole exhibit description. Even what very fast kind of signal cannot escape from inside a black hole?

Expected answer: Light. The sculpture and exhibit descriptions can be explored without attending the nearby theater.

AMNH: Black Hole Exhibit (reviewed 2026-10-29)
https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent/the-universe/black-hole-exhibit

6. Stars Zone

Read how stars connect to people. Where were many of the chemical elements in our bodies made?

Expected answer: In stars. The exhibit connects stellar life cycles with the elements that became part of human bodies.

AMNH: Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Hall of the Universe (reviewed 2026-10-29)
https://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent/the-universe

Sketch / observation challenge: There is no single correct answer. Accept an observation tied to the chosen object and an honest question. A spoken description can replace the sketch.

Keep the activity flexible. Read labels, stay on public routes and follow staff instructions. No answer requires touching a display or entering a closed area.