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USM Biology Trail Guide

Biological Sciences Learning Center

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Station 1

Location: South of the football stadium

- a. Look at the large water oak tree (*Quercus nigra*) located just east of this station. How many nests do you see in the tree? _____ What kinds of animals made these nests? _____
- b. Do you see any birds of prey around this area? (Hint: trees are not the only places you might look)

Station 2

Location: Next to the chapel

- a. What do you think this long cylindrical rock once was? _____
- b. How did you determine its origin?
- c. Look at the wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) and river birch (*Betula nigra*) trees. Compare the bark and leaves of the trees. _____

Station 3

Location: Mural on steps at Mississippi Hall

- a. What is your favorite marine organism?

- b. What is your favorite terrestrial organism?

- c. What does the mural represent?

Station 4

Location: Hickman Hall

- a. The Southern Magnolia is our state flower. How many do you see in the courtyard? _____
- b. Look at the Crepe Myrtle trees. Does each group of tree trunks represent a single tree or a cluster of trees? _____

Station 5

Location: Kennard-Washington Hall

The large live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) that you are looking at is approximately 90 years old. Name several organisms that live in or on this tree.

Station 6

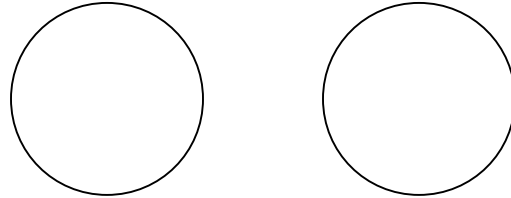
Location: Lake Byron

Take a plankton tow. What kinds of organisms do you think you will find in the plankton tow?

Station 7

Location: Microscope Lab

Make a wet mount from your sample from Lake Byron. Focus your slide using the 40X power. Draw two organisms that you see in the scope.



Station 8

Location: *Basilosaurus cetoides* in museum

Look at the large painting and fossilized remains of the prehistoric organism, and answer the following questions.

- a. When was it alive? _____
- b. Where did it live? _____
- c. How could it have lived there? _____
- d. What kind of animal was it? _____
- e. How was it found? _____

The *Basilosaurus* is Mississippi's state _____

Station 9

Location: Woolly Mammoth in museum

In this display, you see the teeth and portion of a leg bone of a woolly mammoth, an animal that lived about 26 million years ago and became extinct about 10,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age. Look at the bones (collected in Mississippi) and drawings and answer the following questions.



A cave drawing

- a. Did it live at the same time as the whale? ____
- b. How could the whale and mammal both live here? _____
- c. To what kind of living animal is the woolly mammoth related? _____
- d. What kind of tooth is this and what was its function? _____
- e. What were the pointed incisors used for?

Station 10

Location: Table in Learning Center

Look at the preserved alligator. Using comparisons and ratios, scientists must often determine the size of a once living animal by a footprint, bone, or tooth.

- a. Measure from the center of this alligator's eyes to the tip of its snout. _____ inches
- b. Measure the entire length of the alligator's body. _____ feet
- c. What is the relationship between the length of the skull and the body of the alligator? _____

Station 11

Location: Plant Display

Look at the models of carnivorous plants.

- a. Why are they called carnivorous? _____
- b. Why is that unusual? _____
- c. Name one carnivorous plant and describe how it works. _____

Look at the other types of plants on display.

- d. Name two different groups of plants in the display.

Station 12

Location: Arthropod Display

Look at the arthropod display. Name three arthropods that interest you, and explain why you find them interesting.

Name	Reason Animal is Interesting
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____

The word arthropoda means “jointed foot.” Look at the legs of various arthropods. Note the creatures with interesting appendages. _____

Station 13

Location: Marine Touch Tank

The tank contains many preserved marine organisms such as corals and various shellfish. Look at the sawfish shark.

- a. How long was the sawfish shark from which this “saw” was cut? _____
- b. What was the weight of the sawfish shark? _____
- c. Where and how was the shark captured? _____

Station 14

Location: Mollusk Display

- a. Name two kinds of bivalves.

- b. Name two kinds of gastropods.

- c. Name two kinds of cephalopods.

Station 15

Location: Marine Aquarium

This 110-gallon salt water tank is full of animals. The following animals live in the tank. Circle all of the animals that your group identifies.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| feather duster worms | clamworms |
| sea tongue | sea anemone |
| cleaner shrimp | sea fan |
| hermit crabs | snails |
| flaming scallop | mushroom polyps |
| green polyps | brain coral |
| Yellow Tang | Mandarin fish |
| Damselfish | |

Station 16

Location: Live Creature Exhibit

- a. Name the live creatures found in this exhibit.

- b. What kinds of food do they eat?

- c. Do they have any interesting features?

Station 17

Location: Horse Exhibit

Look at the remains of the horse.

- a. Is the animal a vertebrate or invertebrate? Explain.

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BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES LEARNING
CENTER AND BIOLOGY TRAIL AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.
WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR VISIT.**

Department of Biological Sciences

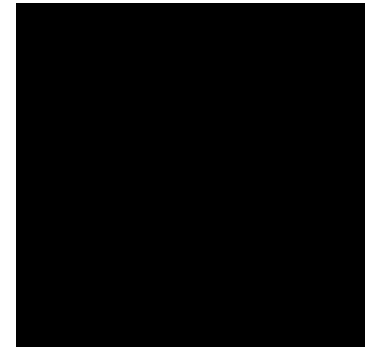
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