



images *of* **nature**
an easy to read guide
to the gallery

Welcome to the *Images of Nature* gallery



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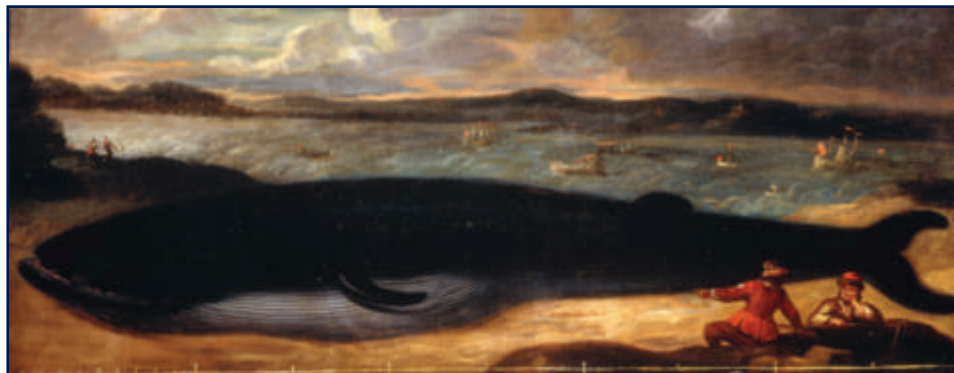
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What is in the gallery

A **gallery** is a space to show things. This one is full of drawings, paintings and photographs from nature.

This gallery shows you how artists draw and paint things from the **natural world**. The **natural world** means everything around us in nature. It means things like plants, animals, fish, insects, rocks and minerals.

Drawings and paintings can show nature in a different way. They can show things that we cannot see in a photograph or in a model.



Beached whale by unknown artist

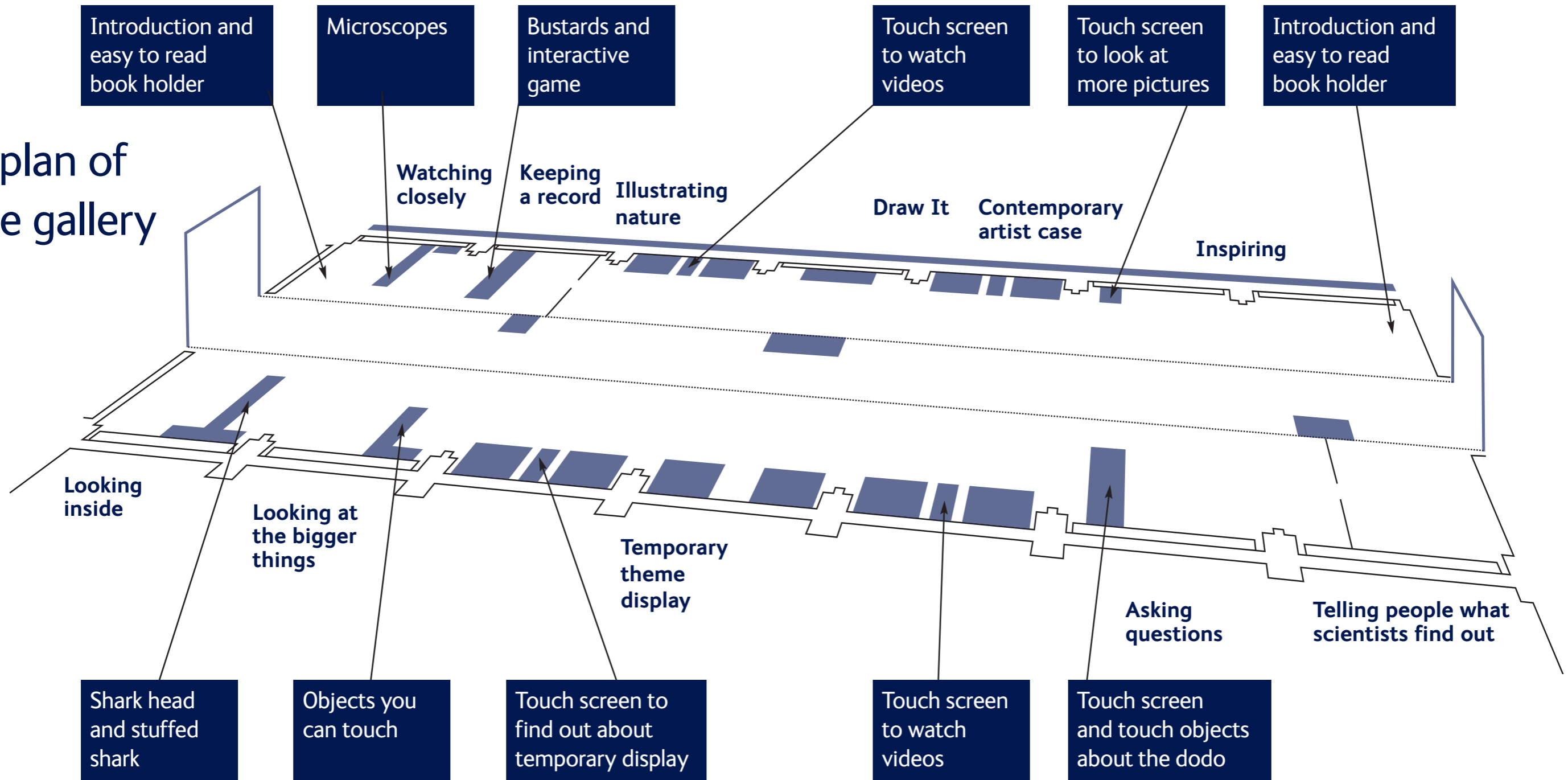
Some of the best natural history paintings and drawings that we look after at the Museum are in this gallery. We have the biggest collection of natural history art in the world.

We also want to show you some of the **images** and photographs that are made by our photographers and scientists. **Images** are like photographs. They can show different parts of things close up.

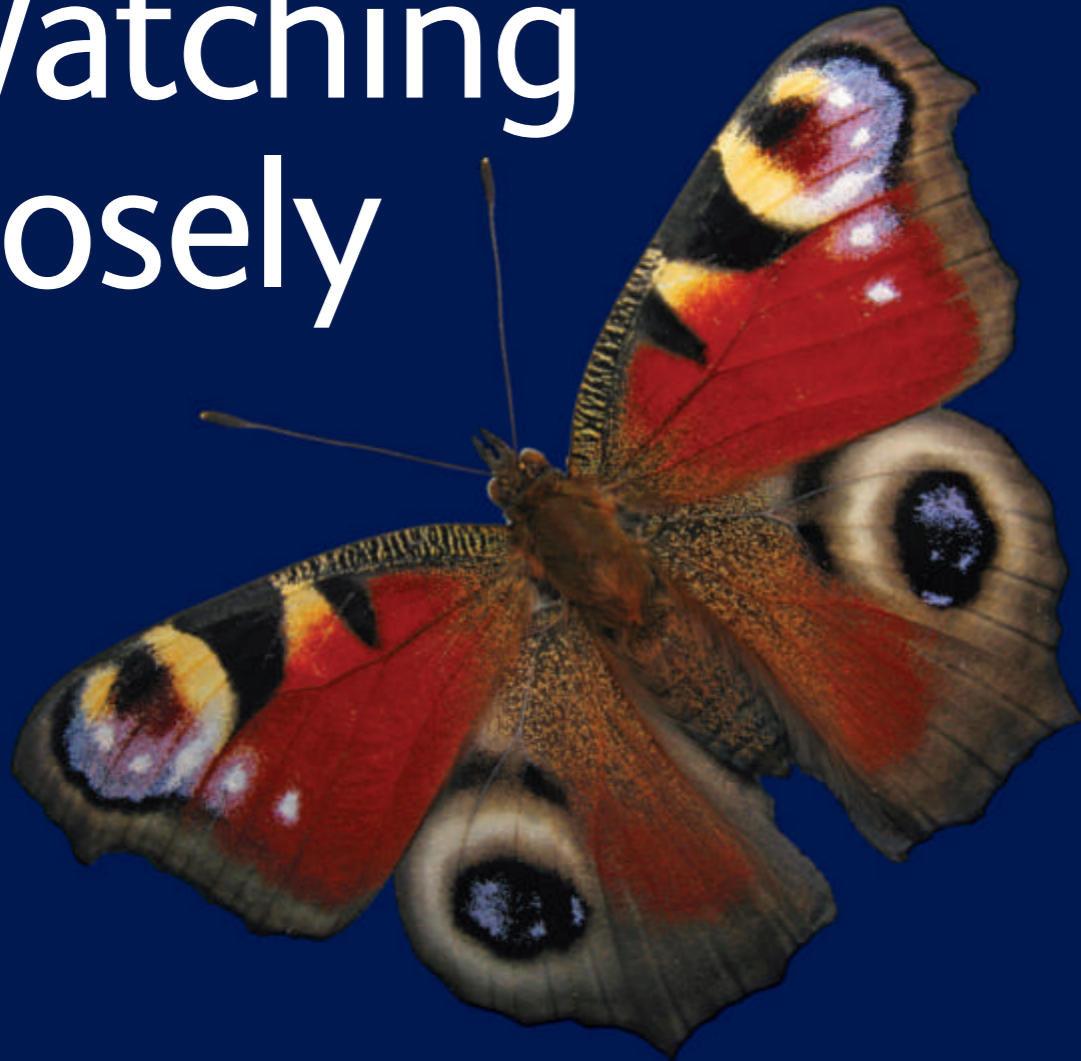
Some of the pictures in the gallery are very old. We have to be very careful the light does not damage them. Some of them are in cases where the light is very dim.

If you want to see things in close up you can do this on the screen near the big gorilla picture.

A plan of the gallery



Watching closely



Looking inside a secret world

Looking at things very closely can help people who work in science and people who work in art.

They can use a special tool called a **microscope** to see things very closely. A **microscope** can help very small things look much bigger. We use microscopes to help us in our work at the Museum.

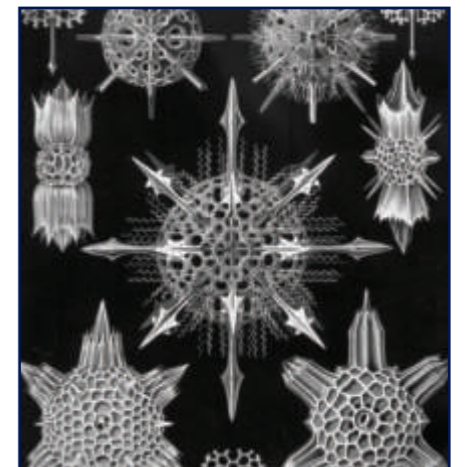
One of the first people to use a microscope was a man called **Robert Hooke**. He looked at things like snowflakes and fleas. He made a book about what he saw under the microscope.

An artist called **Jan van Kessel** painted things like butterflies. His paintings show every part of the butterfly so you can see what it looks like close up.

Another man who likes to use a microscope is called **Giles Revell**. He took an insect called a bluebottle fly and looked at it under a very big and powerful microscope.



Bluebottle by Giles Revell



Acanthophracta by Ernst Haeckel

Keeping a record



Bustard birds by John Gerrard Keulemans

Looking at things very closely

Some things in nature have to be **recorded**.

Recorded means keeping a copy or record so that it can be looked at again and again.

Scientists are people who work in science and know a lot about nature. They can use drawings of things in nature to learn about science. They can only do this if the drawing or picture looks like the real thing.

One man who was very good at drawing things in nature was **John Gerrard Keulemans**. He spent a long time looking very closely at things in nature before he did his drawings. He liked to draw and paint birds.

These are some of his paintings. The ones in the painting on page 8 are called **bustards**.

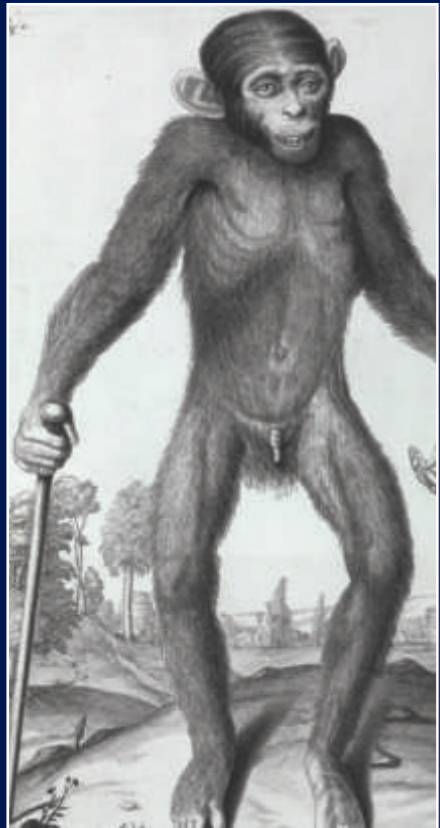


Kakapo bird by John Gerrard Keulemans



Hornbill bird by John Gerrard Keulemans

Looking inside



Ape



The inside of an ape



The bones of an ape

Looking to see what is inside

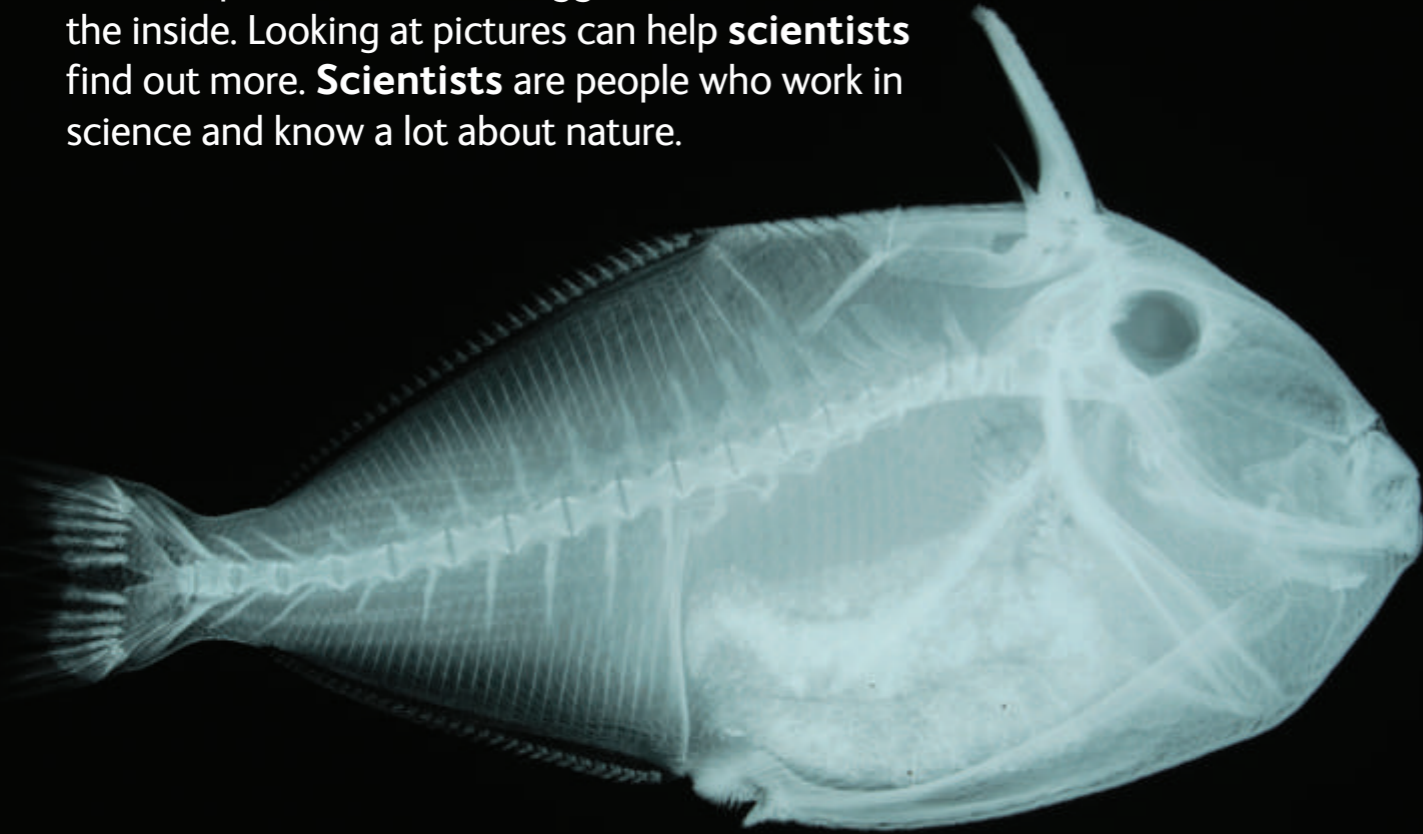
If we look inside animals we can see how the animal's body is put together. We can look at things like their bones. This can help us find out more about them.

People used to cut up animals and look inside them to find out more. This is called **dissection**.

There are new ways to look inside an animal now. We can do this with special machines. The machines show us what is inside the animals.

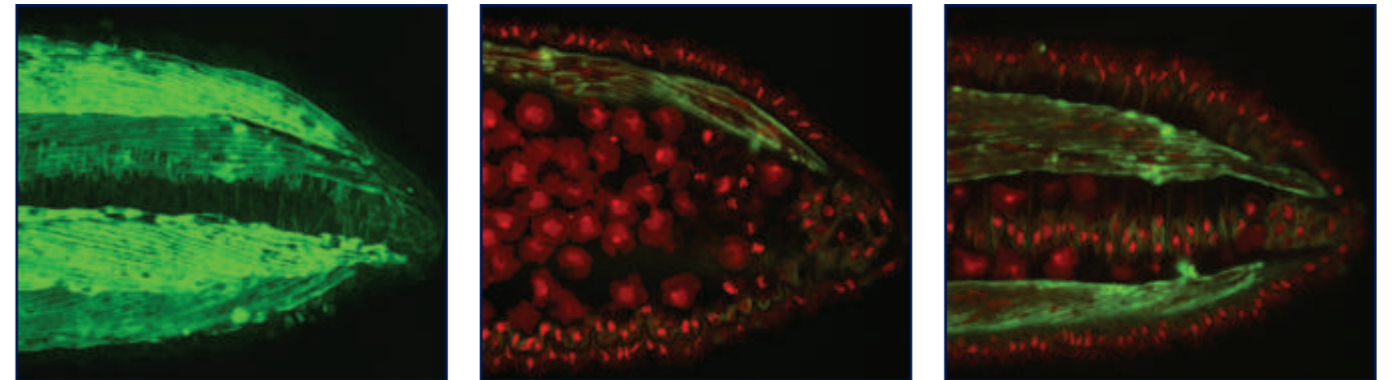
Look at the pictures on page 10 of the inside of an ape called a **chimpanzee**. They were drawn a long time ago. The pictures show how the inside of an ape is like the inside of a man.

Here is a picture of what a triggerfish looks like on the inside. Looking at pictures can help **scientists** find out more. **Scientists** are people who work in science and know a lot about nature.

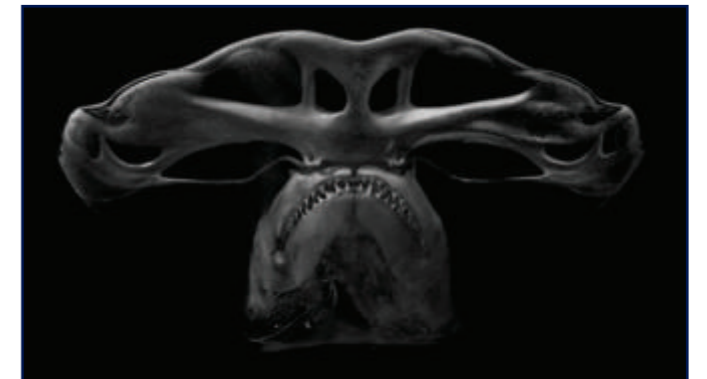


X-ray of a triggerfish

The pictures below show what the **cells** look like inside a worm. **Cells** are tiny parts that make up the bodies of animals, people, plants and insects. The cells are shown in different colours so you can see the different parts inside the worm.



This is what the inside of a shark's head looks like. You can watch a film that shows you what it looks like inside the nose of the shark. We did a project on this to find out how a shark uses its nose to smell.



Inside of a shark's head



Looking at the bigger things

Victoria crater on
the planet Mars

In this gallery we look at things very closely. We also know that we need to look at things in a bigger way too.

If we want to learn more about the natural world – this means people, animals, insects, plants and rocks – we might need to look at whole countries and even planets.

People who study big areas are called **geologists**. They study Earth and what is inside it. This means things like rocks and minerals. **Geologists** find out as much as they can about a big area. Years ago, they had to travel a long way to do this.

Now geologists can find out about big areas using **satellites**. **Satellites** are up in space. They can take photographs of big areas. This helps geologists and scientists find out more about the natural world.

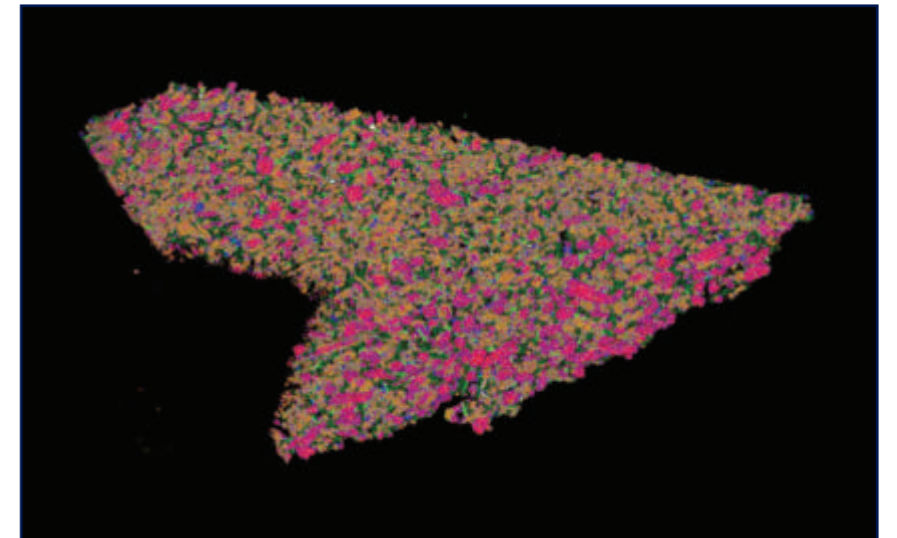


William Smith's map

Making maps

One of the first maps of rocks and minerals was made by a man called **William Smith**. He travelled a long way to find out everything he could to make the map. For example, he found out as much as he could about rocks and **fossils**. **Fossils** are found in rocks and stones. They are parts of animals and plants that died a very long time ago. You can still see them as part of the rock or stone.

This is a photograph of a **meteorite**. **Meteorites** are big rocks that travel through space. Pictures like this can help scientists at the Museum find out which planets meteorites came from. This meteorite comes from the planet Mars.



Meteorite from the planet Mars

Telling people what scientists find out



Rhinoceros by James Parsons

Drawings about science

Scientists are people who work in science and know a lot about nature. They have different ways like drawings, photographs and writing to show people what they find out. Lots of pictures in this gallery were drawn to help **scientists** find out more.

On page 18 you can see a picture of a rhinoceros. It was drawn a long time ago by a man called **James Parsons**. He drew the rhinoceros very carefully so you can very clearly see its shape and skin.

The other picture is of a **fossil** of a plant called a sea-lily. **Fossils** are found in rocks and stones. They are parts of animals and plants that died a very long time ago. You can still see them as part of the rock or stone.

Scientists had to use drawings to tell other scientists about things they had found out. This was the only way they could show things. This happened before photographs were made.



A fossil called a crinoid

Asking questions



Dodo by Roelandt Savery



Dodo by Julian Pender Hume

How images change

The dodo is a famous bird. It died a long time ago. This means it is now **extinct**. But scientists are still very interested in the dodo and want to find out more about it.

We only have drawings and paintings that can tell us what the dodo looked like. If these drawings and paintings are not right then how will we know what the dodo really looked like?

On page 20 you can see two pictures of a dodo. One is a famous painting drawn by **Roelandt Savery** more than 400 years ago.

Next to this is a picture of what the Museum scientist and artist **Julian Pender Hume** now thinks the dodo looks like.

The Museum found out that the dodo did not really look like the painting by Savery. We found some new fossil bones of the dodo that no one had seen before. These bones tell us that the dodo looked more like the other picture.

Inspiring —
making us want
to know more
and feeling good
about nature



Gorilla by Henrik Gronvold

The art of nature

There are lots of beautiful and different things to see in nature. Looking at nature in paintings can make us feel good about ourselves and the world we live in.

There are lots of old paintings in this gallery. They belonged to a man called **Sir Hans Sloane**. He collected paintings about nature.

Here is a famous painting of two birds fighting. It is called hawk attacked by eagle.

On page 22 there is a painting of a gorilla. The man who painted it was called **Henrik Gronvold**. He worked at the Museum as an artist for most of his life.

A man called **Aubrey Williams** painted birds because he loved them so much. He liked to paint birds that were not very common or were going to die out and become **extinct**.



Hawk attacked by eagle by Robert Havell

Draw it

After seeing all the things in the gallery, you might want to draw something, too.

Take a Draw It card and a pencil and have a go yourself.

Find a plant or animal to draw – there are lots in the galleries nearby.

Look at what you want to draw very closely.

Try drawing it in different ways and from different angles. Which angle looks best to you?

If there is someone with you, ask them to help you.

When you have finished, bring your picture back and put it in the drop box on your right.

We will try to show as many pictures as we can.





We're on nature's side. We support the environment by printing on paper that is made from 100 per cent post-consumer waste.