

7. Find the "Great Lakes coastal dunes" diorama

Why are Monarch butterflies common at coastal dunes?

How can changes in the coastal dunes and their other habitats affect the butterflies (even more than just losing a food source)?

8. Find the "Fish wall"

What is a nonnative species? How can it be harmful or beneficial to the environment?

Give one example of a non-native species that is beneficial.

Give one example of a non-native species that is harmful. What are they called?



Discovery Guide
Exploring Michigan
Grades 6-8

Directions

Answer the guide as you travel through *Exploring Michigan*. This guide is meant to be completed while in the gallery with a chaperone.

1. Through the Layers

Why is there a gap in information in Michigan layers?

What have we lost from the gap?

2. Fossils in Michigan

What can plant fossils reveal about the past environment of Michigan?

3. Find the "Jack pine" diorama

Why is fire important for the growth of jack pines? How might other organisms prevent the cycling of matter for the jack pine?

4. Find the "Wetlands" diorama

There are three types of wetlands: marshes, bogs, and swamps. What are ways to tell the three types of wetlands apart?

5. Find the "Oak-hickory" diorama

In each ecosystem, there are producers and consumers. Producers make their own food (through photosynthesis). On the other hand, consumers need to eat to get their energy. Circle the producers and put a box around the consumers

Poison ivy

Eastern screech owl

White-tailed deer

Hickory sapling

Chipmunk

White-breasted nuthatch

From the list above, draw an arrow from what eats what.

6. Find the "River" diorama

The riparian zone is the part between river and land. Because of the water and nutrients, plant life thrives here! Circle the riparian zone in the picture below.



Why is the riparian zone an important part of the river ecosystem?
