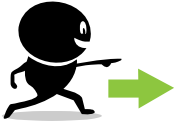


On the trail of a scientist...

Museum scientists collect and study many different things. The museum has more than 1.4 million artifacts and specimens from all over Alaska and the world. Search the Gallery of Alaska for objects and learn to think like a museum scientist!



Interior Region

An **ARCHAEOLOGIST** studies cultures of the past.

On the trail...

Archaeologists examine tool artifacts to date a site. Find the microblades and copper points. The campus microblade cores were discovered right here at UAF! Found in 1933, these were the 1st archaeological evidence that the cultures of Asia and America were connected through the Bering Land Bridge.

Study the tools & draw a comparative picture of two:

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Digging Deeper...

Sharper than steel! Look for objects made from obsidian (volcanic glass). Obsidian from an ancient lava flow in interior Alaska was traded widely. Obsidian is so sharp and smooth, it is used for modern surgery!

A **PALEONTOLOGIST** studies past animal & plant life.

On the trail...

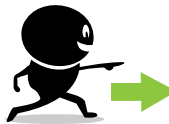
Paleontologists investigate fossils of all kinds. Find "Blue Babe." The fossilized bison provides evidence of another animal that roamed AK during the Ice Age.

What animal killed Blue Babe? _____

Draw a picture of the evidence:

Digging Deeper...

Can you find dinosaur fossils in the gallery? The museum has the largest collection of arctic dinosaurs in the world. Dinosaurs roamed Alaska until 65 million years ago. Birds are descendants of those extinct animals.



Western & Arctic Coast Region

An **ENTOMOLOGIST** studies insects.

On the trail...

Entomologists study similarities and differences between insects. Find the butterfly exhibit. The butterflies pictured here are life size.

What colors are they mostly? _____

Draw a life size picture of a butterfly:

Digging Deeper...

New to science! The museum has several species of insects that have not yet been named by scientists. What would you name a brand new insect?

A **MAMMALOGIST** studies mammals.

On the trail...

Mammalogists use skins, frozen tissues, and bones to study mammals. Find the caribou skeleton. This complete skeleton is useful for studying anatomy and identifying individual bones.

Draw a picture of some of the caribou's bones:

Digging Deeper...

Even one bone is important! The museum has a rib from a Stellar's Sea Cow, an extinct relative of manatees. It is the only evidence of the animal's existence in Alaska. However, the bone was possibly used as an anchor and may not have originated here.



Western & Arctic Coast Region

An **ETHNOLOGIST** studies modern cultures.

On the trail...

Ethnologists collect and preserve cultural artifacts. Look up to find the kayak. This kayak is the only Nunamiut kayak in existence! Kayaks of this type were used to hunt caribou.

What is the kayak covered with? _____

Draw a picture of someone using the kayak:

Digging Deeper...

The museum has many unique pieces. A collar in the gallery upstairs is covered with trade beads, showing the wearers importance. There are probably only 2 or 3 like it in the whole world. Can you find it?

A **BOTANIST** studies plants.

On the trail...

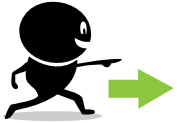
Botanists study where plants live and how they grow. The museum collects and preserves pressed plants in the **herbarium**. Plants have many uses. Find the display of coiled baskets.

What are these baskets made from? _____

Draw a picture of someone gathering plant materials to make a basket (use your imagination!):

Digging Deeper...

It could be you! The museum has over 30,000 pressed plant specimens from just one person! J.P. Anderson collected in Alaska in the early 1900s. Have you ever collected something?



Southcentral Region



Southeast Region

An **ORNITHOLOGIST** studies birds.

On the trail...

Ornithologists study variability in birds. Find the swans. Study the similarities and differences between the swans and the sandpipers near them. Differences between species relate to the habitat they live in and their feeding strategies.

Draw and compare the beaks and feet of 2 birds:

Beaks	Feet

Digging Deeper...

The museum has birds from all over the world. The collection holds birds from all 7 continents. Birds travel from wintering grounds on 6 continents to breed here in Alaska. Look for their travel paths on the world map near the sandpipers.

An **ICHTHYOLOGIST** studies fish.

On the trail...

Ichthyologists study fishes and their habitats. Find the small halibut. Halibut are flatfish adapted to life on the sea floor. Study the halibut and compare it to the salmon behind you.

Draw a picture of a halibut:

Digging Deeper...

The museum holds the type specimen of a snailfish. This is the particular specimen used to name the species and to compare all other specimens to. Snailfish live in deep water in the Arctic & Antarctic. Look for one in the Boulder Patch exhibit.



You're finished! Keep exploring & thinking like a scientist!