

Australian Museum as a Site Study Activity Sheet

Museum Exhibits: How have exhibits changed through time?

1. *Birds and Insects* exhibition

a) Go to *Birds and Insects* on Level 2.

b) Look at this historical photo of the *Bird and Fish Exhibits* in the 1950s. The birds have a small label attached to them stating their scientific name. This is the only information about the birds available to visitors. There are many birds of the same species in the showcases.

c) Look at today's *Birds and Insects* exhibition.

d) Write your **feelings** and **opinions** about the exhibition in the photo and the exhibition today in the following table:



My evaluation of the exhibitions

	Bird and Fish Exhibits 1950s (photo)	<i>Birds and Insects</i> exhibition (constructed late 1970s)
Visual impression What do you think about the look of the exhibition? Why?		
Inviting interest How does the exhibition get you interested in finding out more information about the birds?		
Access to information How easy is it to find information about the birds? What different ways can you learn about them?		

e) Which of these two styles of exhibition do you prefer and why?

2. *Surviving Australian* exhibition

a) Go to the *Surviving Australia* on Level 2.

b) Look at this historical photo of the *Mammals and Osteology* (Skeletons) exhibition in 1900. The animals have a small label attached to them stating their scientific name. This is the only information about the animals available to visitors.

c) Look at today's *Surviving Australia* exhibition.

d) Write your **feelings** and **opinions** about the exhibition in the photo and the exhibition today in the following table:



My evaluation of the exhibitions

	<i>Mammals and Osteology</i> exhibition 1900 (photo)	<i>Surviving Australia</i> exhibition (designed 2008)
Visual impression What do you think about the look of the exhibition? Why?		
Inviting interest How does the exhibition get you interested in finding out more information about the animals?		
Access to information How easy is it to find information about the animals? What different ways can you learn about them?		

e) Which of these two styles of exhibition do you prefer and why?

Discussion questions

- What do you think makes a good exhibition?
- How do you think the style of exhibitions in museums has changed through time?
- Why do you think the style of exhibitions in museums change through time?
- How do you think the content of exhibitions in museums has changed through time?
- Why do you think the content of exhibitions in museums change through time?
- Why do you think museums change slowly?