



UW GEOLOGY MUSEUM SCAVENGER HUNT

MINERALS AND ROCKS

1. What is the state rock of Wisconsin? (Hint: look for the rock slab cut into the shape of WI.) Each color is a different type of mineral. How many minerals are there in this rock?
2. Each mineral, rock, or fossil on display in the museum has a white tag near it that will tell you the name of the specimen and where it is from. What are two different minerals in this room that were found in Wisconsin?
3. After seeing the rocks glow in the Black Light Display, recall your favorite rock and in the box draw what it looked like.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a rock they liked after seeing it glow under black light.

FOSSILS

4. Outside of the plant fossil case there is a petrified tree stump. Imagine that while on vacation in Arizona you had found this fossil and didn't know what it was. What features does it have that would make you think it was a tree stump?
5. In the past, much of North America was covered by a shallow ocean that was filled with many different sea creatures. As you look in the cases, find a sea creature fossil that you like and answer the following questions:
 - A. What is the name of fossil you chose?
 - B. Where is it from?
 - C. Why did you choose it?
6. Many of the fossils in the museum were not complete when they were found. There are many reasons for why there may be parts missing from a skeleton. What are two reasons you can think of?
7. Paleontologists don't just study shells or skeletons (what are called "body fossils" because they represent parts of the body of an animal). Footprints, nests, burrows, and coprolites are examples of other fossils that can tell us a lot about the habits of an extinct animal. Look in the cases in the skeleton room for an example of a coprolite. What is a coprolite? What do you think scientists can we learn from them?