

# Water

H<sub>2</sub>O=Life

*Water: H<sub>2</sub>O=Life* is divided into ten sections:

- **Introduction** asks visitors to begin considering their relationship to water and its importance in the world around them.
- **Life in Water** introduces visitors to some of the incredible adaptations that plants and animals have evolved over the ages to cope with water scarcity or abundance, to extremes warm or cold temperatures, and to life in fresh or salt water. Human life is also emphasized, with exhibits that describe human body-water content and daily water needs.
- **Blue Planet** focuses on some of the extraordinary physical and chemical properties of the H<sub>2</sub>O molecule and its importance as a climate driver. Visitors will see a reconstruction of a water-carved slot canyon, and an actual piece of the Murichison meteorite, which landed in Australia in 1969 and is about 12% water by weight.
- **Water Works** focuses on how people use fresh water and illustrates the competitive demands on the limited supply. Water has a role in almost everything we produce and consume; in this section, the environmental consequences of our water use will be explored. Visitors will also follow the history of irrigation and damming.
- **Theater** shows a group of experts speaking passionately about the need to rethink the ways we obtain and use water.
- **Water Everywhere** explores some of the wettest and iciest places in the world, how species (including humans) manage to survive in these unique ecosystems, and how climate change is affecting them.
- **Not a Drop** presents some of the most water-poor places on Earth and offers insight into the ways that people and ecosystems are shaped by, and adapt to, a lack of water. A scale model of a working “play pump”—a playground carousel that pumps water to a storage tank—gives visitors a look at one of the many innovative technologies being used to give people access to water supplies.
- **Healthy Water** explores where our drinking water comes from, what is involved in making sure it is safe, and why clean water is so important to our well-being. A video microscope permits visitors to examine a few of the many microorganisms that can inhabit a single drop of water.
- **Restoring Ecosystems** illustrates how aquatic ecosystems are both alarmingly fragile and surprisingly resilient. Visitors explore three places where human effects are being addressed or, in some cases, reversed: California’s Mono Lake, the Mississippi River Delta, and the Mesopotamian marshes.
- **What Can I Do** reinforces the message that we are all stewards of our watery planet and individual action can make a difference.

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*Water: H<sub>2</sub>O=Life* is organized by the American Museum of Natural History and the Science Museum of Minnesota, in collaboration with the San Diego Natural History Museum, Great Lakes Science Center, The Field Museum, Instituto Sangari (São Paulo, Brazil), National Museum of Australia, Royal Ontario Museum, and Singapore Science Centre with PUB Singapore.

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