

New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science: Science Education Resources

You probably know the New Mexico Natural History & Science Museum (NMMNHS) is a wonderful place to visit in person – which it is! But you don't have to walk in our front door to find amazing educational experiences and resources.

The Museum's website <http://www.nmnaturalhistory.org/> offers a wealth of information for classroom, science, informal and homeschool educators, and their students and families. Go to the education menu, and click on **Science @ Home** <http://www.nmnaturalhistory.org/education/science-home> to find some amazing STEM resources.

For example, click on **Mineral Monday**, for resources and videos on identification of minerals, rocks, or fossils, and you can submit photographs of your specimen for identification by our experts. *You can even submit a photo of a place in New Mexico and ask for more information about its geology.*



Our **Brief Guide** section has summaries of geological topics and the geology of our state, and more topics will be added soon.

Under **Virtual Field Trips**, explore part of Petroglyph National Monument. Or click on the Museum's **Sandia Mountain Natural History Center** under Science @ Home to explore ecosystems and some interesting "quick trips."

You can also go to the Museum's **YouTube channel** for videos related to space science, paleontology, museum exhibits, and a fun series of bilingual "That's Bizarre" videos about biology topics from the museum's Naturalist Center.



A document titled 'BRIEF GUIDE TO ROCKS' from the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science. It contains several sections: 'What is a rock?', 'How are rocks classified?', and 'How are different rocks named?'. Each section includes definitions, examples, and small images of rocks. For example, under 'What is a rock?', it defines a rock as a naturally occurring solid, a mixture of minerals, and a 'time machine' with a story to tell. Under 'How are rocks classified?', it lists igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks with their characteristics and examples. Under 'How are different rocks named?', it explains that igneous rocks are named by type and amount of minerals, while sedimentary rocks are named by grain size and texture, and metamorphic rocks are named by their chemical composition and how they are formed.

There are other sections in the museum website that will be of interest to fans of New Mexico volcanoes, tyrannosaurs, and the planet Mars.

Go to the exhibits menu and click on online exhibits, and you will find **The Volcanoes of New Mexico** <http://nmnaturalhistory.org/online-exhibits-geoscience/volcanoes-new-mexico> with photos and detailed descriptions of the 1000 volcanoes in our state; or explore the four areas in New Mexico where fossils of tyrannosaurs have been discovered <http://nmnaturalhistory.org/online-exhibits/new-mexico-tyrannosaur-state>



Go to the [science](#) menu and click on [space science](#) to find [Mars-Perseverance Mission](#) and [Rover Field Reports from Mars](#) for educational resources about Mars and the mission and for reports on the Perseverance rover's mission. This Museum is one of only two museums nationwide with a direct connection to the mission through a science curator <http://nmnaturalhistory.org/space-science/rover-field-reports-mars>



Search NMMNH&S Fossils
The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science paleontology collection contains approximately 80,000 cataloged items. The strengths of the collection include the fauna and flora of the Kinney Brick Pennsylvanian Lagerstätten, Permian trackways and traces, Triassic reptiles and amphibians, Late Cretaceous invertebrates and reptiles, Paleocene mammals and reptiles, and Neogene mammals.

We are a research and collections museum and hold paleontological, mineralogical, and biological collections, curated by our collections staff, and used worldwide for research. Our science and collections staff have produced an amazing online resource. If you are interested in a specific biological species, fossil or rock/mineral go to the science menu and click on [search the collections](#) <http://nmnaturalhistory.org/search-collections/search-collections>

So far, we have listed resources for information...but we haven't forgotten about activities for students or families.

For fans of coloring, of all ages, we have over 70 one-of-kind, coloring pages, drawn by our museum graphic artists/designers and based on New Mexico natural history. Including New Mexico volcanoes, dinosaurs, and official state symbols. Go to [Science @ Home](#) and click on [Natural History Coloring Sheets](#). For word searches and puzzles go to [Natural History Activity Sheets](#).



Click on [StoryTime](#) to hear selected science stories on a range of topics and watch related activity demos, all designed specifically for preK-2 children and their families.

Even when the museum is closed, you can still explore our outdoor *Walk Through New Mexico* exhibit located along Mountain Road in front of the museum. Go to [Science @ Home](#) and download our [Scavenger Hunts](#) for use in this outdoor exhibit and learn about the linked geology and biology of our state.

AND if you are an educator who would like a museum educator to do an online presentation or virtual class on a particular natural history topic...check out [Invite an Educator](#) in our [Science @ Home](#) section. <http://nmnaturalhistory.org/resources-educators-and-teachers/invite-educator>

Keep checking our website for future virtual tours of our permanent exhibits and more materials and activities for educators. Join us online at the museum and enjoy the wonders of the natural history and science of New Mexico!

For questions or more information contact: Deb Novak, Director of Education deb.novak@state.nm.us or Jayne Aubele, Adult Educator, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science jayne.aubele@state.nm.us