

museum SCHOOL NEWS



A YEAR IN REVIEW

2014-2015 was a very memorable year here at the Royal Alberta Museum. As you may have already heard, we will be moving to a beautiful new building that's twice the size, in the heart of Edmonton's downtown arts district. The staff here at the current location are buzzing with activity, preparing for this move. Given the degree of work required of us, we were pleased to still be able to welcome six classes into Museum School! Those classes received a unique experience to learn about this mammoth project and even to participate but more about that later!

Throughout the course of the year, our Museum School classes met 27 different RAM staff from various museum departments. They addressed topics across the spectrum of our museum's work, from conserving our current collections to exhibit design. The students were able to tour behind the scenes where they saw collection spaces, met more museum

staff, visited the bug lab, and took part in activities like feeding the fish and observing lichens through a microscope!

Students also helped us test fresh exhibit ideas for the new museum. They engaged with a variety of test version interactives and provided feedback that will help inform various exhibit teams and designers. When the new museum opens the 2014/15 Museum School classes can take pride in knowing they contributed to its development!

So, here's to a wonderful year of Museum School of memories and discoveries! Museum School will not run in 2015-16/2016-17, but we can't wait to have you back once we are moved into our new museum. We look forward to being able to offer you a gamut of new and amazing experiences. Until then, keep journaling!

For more information about our **Museum on the Move** and how it affects programs, please visit www.royalalbertamuseum.ca/education/transitionFAQ.cfm.

journal...

✦ Write a letter to a future Museum School student. What would you tell them about your experience? ✦

ACTIVITY

MAKE YOUR OWN DIORAMA

Since we are busy designing things for our new museum, we thought your students could design their own animal dioramas!

Instructions for teachers

1. First off, give everyone a shoebox and background paper.
2. Have participants brainstorm what they want to highlight as their "feature creature." Have them consider the environment they want to create for the animal. Use photos as inspiration.
3. Participants should then draw their backgrounds while considering how their animal may be incorporated later.
4. Once the background is complete, put it into the box so they it curves like a real diorama. Use tape on the left and right edge of the background paper to attach it to the box.
5. Encourage students to use other materials on hand to bring life to the foreground. Have the participants consider how the background and foreground work together. Maybe they have similar colours or repeating shapes. Tufts of tissue paper can add a feeling of foliage.
6. Place animal in the diorama. Participants can make their own animal model or use animal figures.