

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

EXHIBIT EXPLORER

Third Floor



Africa

Africa includes several different biomes and climates, and is believed to be the location of the origin of human life. Within this gallery you will experience exhibits that reflect the great biodiversity, rich traditions, and history of some of the world's most fascinating cultures.

- 1. Egypt:** Entering the Africa gallery, there is an Egyptian mummy immediately to your right. Many ancient cultures mummified their dead, but the ancient Egyptians truly perfected the art of mummification. Read the panel titled *The Process*. What organs were typically left inside a mummified body? _____
- 2. Biodiversity:** Continuing down the corridor, you will see exhibits featuring various ecosystems that support the rich biodiversity of African plants and animals. On your right is the *Savanna Bush* exhibit showing the low grasslands essential to grazing animals. On your left you will see the *Salt Lick in the Bamboo Forest*. What is the largest animal represented in each of these two African ecosystems? _____
- 3. Cradle of Mankind:** Continue down the corridor and you will see a cluster of straw and stick huts in front of you. To the left is a display titled *Africa—The Cradle of Mankind*, which reflects human evolution as scientists understood it 30 years ago. Continued research has improved our understanding today, but one key piece of evidence has stood the test of ongoing research: the first appearance of *Homo erectus*, an early ancestor of humans. How long ago did *Homo erectus* emerge on earth? _____
- 4. East Africa:** Staying within this area of the Africa gallery we can learn of the region's great environmental and cultural diversity. The Savanna ecosystem of East Africa supports a broad range of distinct tribal groups including farmers, herders and hunters. Look for the exhibit titled *Peoples of the Savanna*. What animal is most important to the Masai tribe? _____
- 5. People of Africa:** Pass the huts and look to the right to find a small room with different exhibits on African people and culture. Look for the exhibit *The People of Central Africa*. Both the tallest and the shortest people in the world come from this region. What two peoples are represented here? _____
- 6. Patterns and Color:** Near the end of the exhibit hall in the Southern African Ethnology case you will find a small panel labeled *Bantu Beadwork*, describing the meanings behind patterns and colors of beads. What are the meanings of some of the different beads? _____