

# Making about the Museum

**The Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize exhibition invites artists to explore the world around them and present their perspectives on natural science in creative ways.**

This trail shows you interesting objects around the Museum and offers ideas for art you can make at home. Making art is a way to think about something and communicate your ideas through creativity and expression, so use our activities for inspiration.

**Ages: 5–12**



**South Australian Museum**  
North Terrace, Adelaide  
[samuseum.sa.gov.au](http://samuseum.sa.gov.au)



Government  
of South Australia



SOUTH  
AUSTRALIAN  
MUSEUM

# World Mammals Gallery

## Ground floor

### Who has wrinkled patterns on their skin?

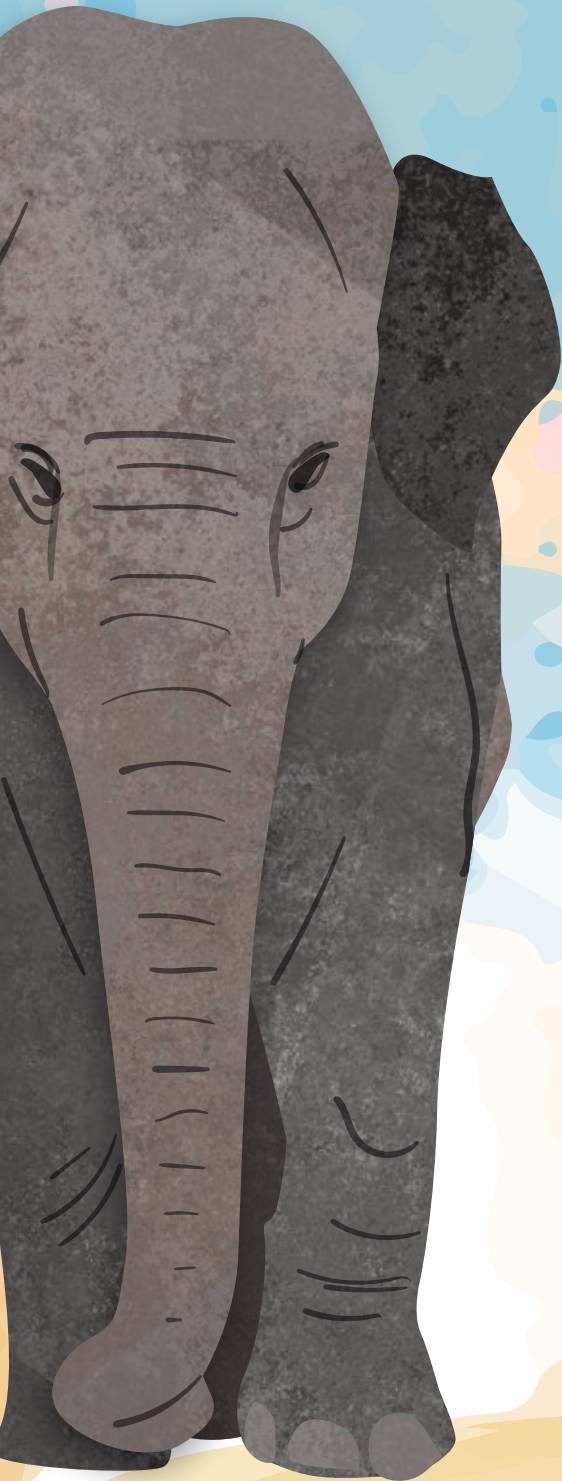
Miss Siam of course! She is an Asian Elephant who was born in 1881. She lived at the Adelaide Zoo and after her death in 1904, she was transferred to the South Australian Museum. Her wrinkled elephant skin traps moisture, helping her keep cool.

**What other animals can you see?** Have a look at all the different patterns on the animals.

### Home activity: Drawing repeating patterns

**Materials** Paper, pencils or pens, scissors, tape

1. Draw a design on a square piece of paper.
2. Cut the paper in half horizontally and switch the pieces around. Tape the cut line on the back of the paper.
3. Cut the paper in half vertically and switch the pieces around. Tape the cut line on the back of the paper.
4. Draw in some of the blank space in your new drawing.
5. Now that you have your square, you can make copies (either by using a photocopier or scanning it on to a computer) and when you line up the squares, your pattern will repeat.
6. You can use your square to print wrapping paper or make a background for your computer!



## South Australian Biodiversity Gallery

### Level 2

The Biodiversity Gallery shows South Australia's landscapes and wildlife from the desert through the temperate and coastal areas to the ocean. Throughout the gallery you'll find lots of different birds. **Do you recognise any birds from your yard, or from walking around the city?**

Rainbow Lorikeets are pollinators – they bring pollen from one flower to another to help plants grow. They do this using their tongue, which is covered in lots of little hair-like bristles called papilla. **Can you find the Rainbow Lorikeet in the gallery?**

# Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery

## Level 1

There are lots of interesting objects across the two floors of the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery. **Can you find the weaving display on Level 1?**

There are all kinds of bags, baskets, fish traps and sculptures. If you look closely you can see a sister basket, which has two identical woven circles side by side, with a handle.

Sister baskets are special objects made by Ngarrindjeri women. Look at the little weaving details!

## Home activity: Friendship bracelets

**Materials** Embroidery floss, wool or thread

1. Cut three lengths of thread as long as your arm.
2. Tie all three in a knot and secure it to something like a table.
3. There are lots of different weaving styles, but a plait is the simplest. To plait your thread, bring the right thread into the middle of the other two threads.
4. Bring the left thread into the middle.
5. Now a different thread is on the right. Bring that in to the middle.
6. Keep bringing threads into the middle from the left, then the right, until you have a long enough bracelet. You can tie it in a knot to finish it.
7. Tie both ends together to make the bracelet.



## Home activity: Singing about singers

Go outside and have a listen to the bird sounds. There's likely to be more in the morning as some birds are waking up and looking for their breakfast.

It can be fun to make up a little song. If you can see the birds outside, you could sing about the colours in their feathers and beaks. Or you could put cheeps and whistles into your song.

If you're not sure what tune to sing, you can use *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* as a starting point. *Pink galah up in the tree, chirping way up above me...*



# Minerals Gallery

## Level 3

There are many colours and shapes in the Minerals Gallery!

**Can you find the big purple geode?** Geodes are formed when there is a hollow inside a rock (for instance, if there is a bubble in lava before it goes cold). Over time little bits of minerals can get inside these hollows, sometimes in liquid form, and they start to form crystals. **Can you see what mineral has formed the crystals in the big purple geode?**

### Home activity: Crystal sculptures

This activity involves boiling water, so it requires an adult's help!

**Materials** Sugar, water, food colouring (optional), string, pencil, clean jar and stovetop

1. Tie a short piece of string to the middle of a pencil, and rest the pencil on top of your jar. The string should dangle down into the jar.
2. Slowly add 3 cups of sugar to 1 cup of water on the stove, and boil until the sugar dissolves.
3. For coloured crystals, add a few drops of food colouring now.
4. Carefully pour the sugar water into the jar. Try to avoid getting undissolved sugar in the jar.
5. Leave the jar in a safe place and check on it over the next few days. It may take some time but the crystals will slowly start to form!
6. You can admire your beautiful crystals, or you can break them off the string and eat them (as long as everything you used in this activity was foodsafe).



Have you been inspired by the Waterhouse exhibition? Share your creations on social media with the hashtag #mysamuseum so we can see them!



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