



Learning is ALWAYS open at MPM.

We know it's hard to be apart. As Wisconsin's resource for nature and culture, we are committed to being there for you and your family as we navigate this together. Every week we will fill your inbox with activities, stories, and unique content from MPM.

KEEPIN' BUSY Fun Things to Do



Does your little one miss visiting our butterflies? Use this coloring sheet to replicate their favorite butterfly in MPM's Puelicher Butterfly garden, or use their imagination to color a new species all their own.

[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)



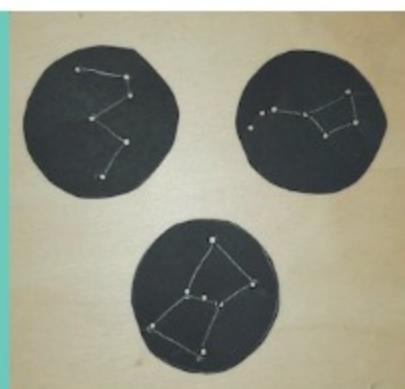
Did you ever wonder how dinosaurs got their names? Think like a paleontologist and create a name for your own dino, using these Latin and Greek root-word puzzle pieces.

[DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS](#)

[PIECE THE PUZZLES](#)

[RECORD YOUR DINO](#)

Can't get outside to see the stars? Make constellations using a flashlight or paper towel tube!



[GET STARTED](#)

COLLECTIONS CONNECTION Exhibits, Artifacts, Objects, & Specimens



About ten years ago, this **Kayapo headdress** of yellow oropendola and red macaw feathers from Brazil came into MPM's collections in an unusual way. It was seized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents in Chicago from an area art gallery that illegally imported this piece and several other feathered items from Brazil. Items seized in this manner are not returned to their country of origin since they do not want them to go back into the cycle of illegal activity. These situations present a remarkable opportunity for museums to legally obtain objects that otherwise would be impossible to procure and allow us to make them available for research and education programs.

MPM INSIGHTS A Look Behind the Scenes

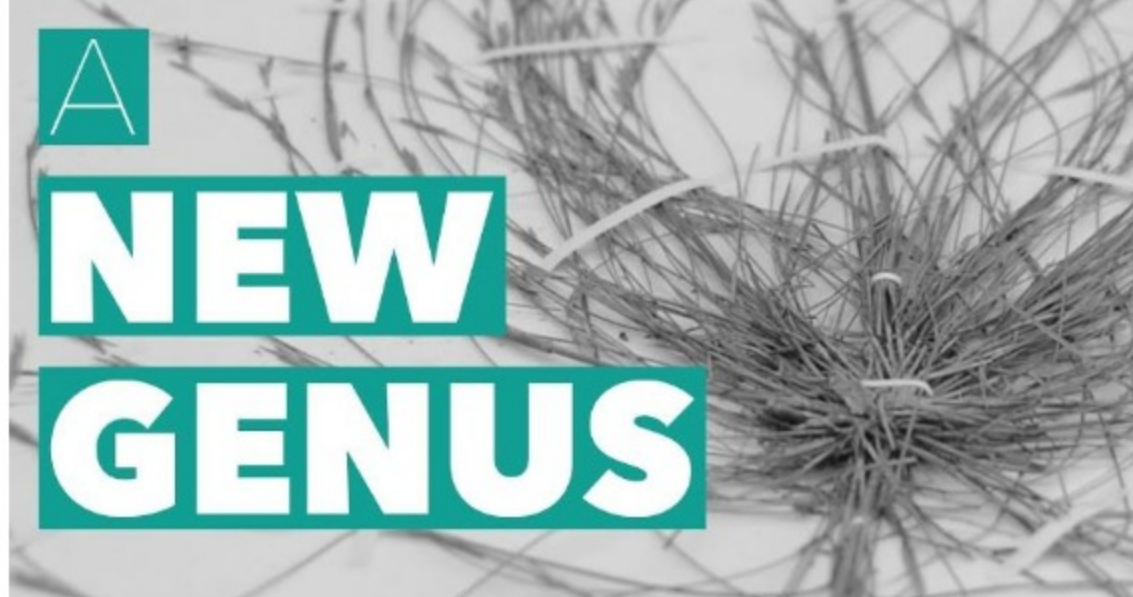
"Why do you do that?"



MPM has been collecting specimens for over 135 years and not only are they used for creating exhibits, but they are studied by scientists and researchers throughout the world. Our Zoology Collections Manager Julia Colby (@MPMZooology) has to do **fluid jar and lid checks on specimens** like this one yearly, as they go out for or come back from loans to scientists and researchers. If you're like us, you might have wondered why she has to do this.

Well, many vertebrate and invertebrate collections are stored in a specific mixture of 70% ethyl alcohol and 30% water to protect them. Over time, fluid evaporates, the mixture gets weaker, and it doesn't preserve the specimen as well. To prevent damage, Julia will use a **hydrometer**, a tool that measures the relative density of liquids, and makes an adjustment to the fluid ratio to keep the specimen safe.

LIFELONG LEARNING



Discovery of new plant and animal species happens routinely, but a new genus is a major scientific find. MPM Research Curator Dr. Christopher Tyrrell used museum collections to uncover a new bamboo genus from the West Indies in 2018. How did he do it? Find out in this episode of **MPM: Untold!** Then, test your new knowledge with our quiz.

Get an inside look at the Museum's collections and research when you watch **MPM Untold**, a series that tells you the stories you don't know.

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

WHAT WILL YOU FIND? Museum Social Media

Visit the Museum on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and talk to us. Check out some of our posts from last week below!



Captain Jonathan Carver traveled among the Forest Potawatomi in 1796, noting that they used the leaves of rattlesnake plantain for the bites of reptiles.



Some of our favorite captions include @jacob "Hello? Can someone push the button for me?" and @charlottercatalano "It's not easy being green..."



As Wisconsin's largest museum, MPM is proud to serve more than 550,000 people every year – welcoming visitors from every county in our great state. Our doors may be temporarily closed, but we are still sharing our collections and research online. Even when you can't visit us, we won't stop bringing an inspiring world of nature and culture to you.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

As you know, we're temporarily closed to support the effort to contain the spread of COVID-19. Without revenue from admissions, we're relying on friends like you more than ever.

Please lend your support by making a donation or purchasing a membership today!

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

[BUY A MEMBERSHIP](#)

Your gift allows us to serve this community now and when we reopen. It also sustains our programs, outreach, and important educational mission. We're already planning incredible programs and events for when we reopen.

Thank you for supporting MPM at this critical time!

SPREAD THE WORD

[Share this newsletter with a friend!](#)