

Name _____

Journey into Earth's Past: The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Short Answer Key

1. The Smithsonian Institution played a crucial role in establishing the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, as it was created by an act of Congress in 1846 with the mission to promote knowledge and learning.
2. The Hall of Geology, Gems, and Minerals showcases stunning gemstones, crystals, and mineral specimens from around the world. An example of a famous gemstone is the Hope Diamond, known for its deep blue color and historical significance.
3. The museum contributes to scientific research and education by providing a platform for scientists to conduct research and share discoveries with the public. It also offers educational programs and exhibitions that engage visitors in learning about the natural world.
4. In the Human Origins exhibit, visitors can learn about the story of human evolution through fossils and artifacts that trace the development of our species from ancient primates to modern humans.
5. It is important to check the museum's website before planning a visit to get information on opening hours, special exhibitions, and visitor guidelines.

