



RICE

MUSEUM OF

ROCKS & MINERALS

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HILLSBORO, OREGON (April 15, 2020) – The Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals announced today the creation of multiple educational resources for teachers and students studying from home, on their new “What on Earth?” web page.

What on Earth? is a collection of earth sciences education and activities for all ages. The page is stocked with numerous videos, labs, coloring sheets, and other materials, with new content created by staff and volunteers. For example, Lara O’Dwyer-Brown, former curator and executive director at the museum, and current member of the board of directors, completed videos from home with her two young sons.

Current executive director Garret Romaine added labs and lectures on geology and geologic time, making the “What on Earth?” page suitable for students of all ages.

“We are very pleased to put this new page together,” said Mr. Romaine. “We recognize that many teachers and students are currently searching for resources in the earth sciences field. Since the museum isn’t open to the public right now, we thought we could try to bring the museum to the community on a virtual basis.”

In addition, online visitors may enjoy a [virtual tour](#) of the museum.



Figure 1. In the "Trace Fossils" lab, students learn the relationship between stride length and height. (photo courtesy of Lara O'Dwyer Brown).



Figure 2. The Murchison Meteorite was an observed fall in western Australia in 1969. Dated to over 7 billion years old, it features over 15 amino acids, thought to be the building blocks of ancient life on Earth.

About the Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals

The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, houses a world-class collection of rocks and minerals recognized as the finest in the Pacific Northwest and one of the best in the nation. The Museum is in Hillsboro, Oregon just west of Portland (exit 61 off Highway 26). Its educational programs include organized school field trips as well as ongoing educational outreach throughout the community at large. A variety of public and private events are hosted throughout the year as well. The Museum is listed on the National Registry for Historic Places for its unique architectural style and its use of natural stone and extraordinary native Oregon woodwork throughout the building.

For more information about the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals, call (503) 647-2418 or visit www.ricenorthwestmuseum.org or www.facebook.com/RiceNWMuseum.

References

Rice NW Museum of Rocks and Minerals: <https://ricenorthwestmuseum.org/>