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The Insect Asylum Collection

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Minerals
Fossils

Dinosaur fossil

Some fossils are over 230 million years old, formed when minerals replace organic material.

Minerals
Fossils

Blue calcite

Gets its color from copper and can glow under ultraviolet light.

Minerals
Fossils

Honey calcite

Creates a double-refraction effect that makes images appear twice.

Minerals
Fossils

Labradorite

Shimmering colors come from light scattering within layered crystal structure.

Minerals
Fossils

Spectralite

A rare Finnish labradorite with the most colorful iridescence of any feldspar

Minerals
Fossils

Red ammonite

Marine predators that urvived for over 300 million years before extinction.

Minerals
Fossils

Purple agate

Forms inside volcanic rock cavities when silica-rich water deposits layers over millennia.

Minerals
Fossils

Hourglass selenite

So soft you can scratch it with a fingernail; named after the Greek moon goddess.

Minerals
Fossils

Desert Rose Crystal

Forms in arid conditions as evaporating water leaves behind gypsum crystals.

Minerals
Fossils

Wulfenite crystal

Vibrant orange-red color comes from traces of molybdenum.

Shells
Marine

Yellow dog conch shell

Named for tooth-like projections around its opening.

Shells
Marine

Butter clam shell

Can live up to 20 years and dig several inches into seafloors with their 'foot'.

Shells
Marine

Brooch clamshell

Growth rings similar to tree rings reveal age and historical climate patterns.

Shells
Marine

Conch shell eggs

Called 'mermaid's necklaces,' containing hundreds of eggs in a protective string.

Shells
Marine

Horseshoe crab

Living fossils unchanged fo 450 million years, predating dinosaurs.

Shells
Marine

Shark jaw

Sharks can go through up to 30,000 teeth in a lifetime.

Plant Materials

Sugar pinecones

Produce the longest cones of any conifer, sometimes exceeding 2 feet.

Plant Materials

Pine cones

Actually the tree's reproductive organs, with male and female versions.

Plant Materials

Bottle tree seed pods

From trees with swollen trunks that store water for survival in arid regions.

Plant Materials

Moss

Can absorb up to 20 times its weight in water despite having no roots.

Plant Materials

Okra seed pods

Produce a natural mucilage once used in emergency blood transfusions during WWII.

Plant Materials

Driftwood

Can float in oceans for years, traveling thousands of miles before washing ashore.

Plant Materials

Foxtails

Have barbed seeds that can only move forward, frequently becoming embedded in animal fur.

Preserved Specimens

Duckling

Preserved in liquids like formaldehyde, a technique dating back to the 17th century.

Preserved Specimen

Mummified Duckling

Natural mummification occurs when bodies dry quickly in arid conditions.

reserved Specimens

Chipmunk

an gather up to 165 acorns daily, storing thousands in underground chambers.

Preserved Specimens

Opossum

Naturally immune to rabies and can eat up to 5,000 ticks yearly.

Preserved Specimens

Chameleon

Tongue accelerates faster than a space shuttle, reaching prey in under 0.07 seconds.

Preserved Specimens

Snakeskin

Snakes shed their entire skin in one piece, including eye scales.

Preserved Specimen

Chick

Modern methods use specialized foam forms rather than traditional wood wool.

reserved Specimens

Weasel

Must eat about 40% of their ody weight daily due to fast metabolism.

Preserved Specimens

Fox head

Foxes have whiskers on their legs as well as faces for navigating in darkness.

Preserved Specimens

Chinese water dragon

Can stay underwater for up to 25 minutes using tails as rudders.

Animal Parts

Macaw feathers

Colors come from microscopic structures reflecting specific light wavelengths.

Animal Parts

Goose feathers

Once valuable writing tools used for quill pens from the 6th to 19th century.

Animal Parts

Turtle shell

ctually part of the skeleton, fused with ribs, vertebrae, and collarbone.

Animal Parts

Bird's nest

Some birds incorporate medicinal plants that repel parasites to protect their young.

Animal Parts

Wasp nest

Built by chewing wood fibers mixed with saliva, essentially creating paper maché.

Animal Parts

Cobra skin

Distinctive hood formed by elongated ribs that extend when threatened.

Animal Parts

Butterfly and moth wings laminated

A single wing can contain more than 100,000 tiny scales.

Animal Parts

Snake shed

Snakes typically shed 4-12 times yearly, with younger snakes shedding more frequently.

Animal Parts

Beaver paw

Front paws are remarkably dexterous, able to hold sticks like hands.

Animal Parts

Rabbit pelt

Rabbits have nearly 360° vision with just a small blind spot in front of their noses.

Animal Parts

Coyote tail

Used as communication tools with different positions conveying specific messages.

Animal Parts

Raccoon pelt

Have 4-5 times more sensory receptors in front paws than back paws.

Animal Parts

Bobcat Hyde

Can leap up to 12 feet in a single bound; named for their short 'bobbed' tails.

Animal Parts

Raccoon tail

Ringed tail helps balance when climbing and serves as fat storage for winter.

Animal Parts

Silver Fox hide

Not a separate species but a color variant of red fox caused by genetic mutation.

Animal Parts

Faun hide

Young deer are born without scent to protect them from predators.

Animal Parts

Woodboring Jewe Beatles

Can detect forest fires from up to 50 miles away using heat-sensing organs.

Bones
Skulls

Giraffe vertebrae

Giraffes have the same umber of neck vertebrae as umans (7), but each is 10+ inches long.

Bones
Skulls

Beaver skull

Orange teeth contain iron compounds for strength and never stop growing.

Bones
Skulls

Beaver jaw

Powerful enough to cut through a 6-inch tree in under 15 minutes.

Bones
Skulls

Fox skull

Special adaptations allow foxes to pinpoint prey hiding under snow.

Bones
Skulls

Hip bone

Actually made of three separate bones that fuse during development.

Bones
Skulls

Raccoon skull

Raccoons can remember solutions to tasks for up to three years.

Bones
Skulls

Deer jaw

Teeth wear down over time, allowing experts to estimate a deer's age.

Bones
Skulls

Deer bones

The only mammals to completely regenerate an organ (antlers) annually.

Bones
Skulls

Deer antler

One of the fastest growing tissues, capable of growing up to an inch per day.

Bones
Skulls

Fishbone tail

Vertebrae designed to allow side-to-side movement while limiting up-and-down flexion.

Bones
Skulls

Burmese python vertebrae

arge pythons can have over 400 vertebrae for smooth movement and constriction.

Bones
Skulls

Moose tooth

Have specialized grinding molars but no upper front teeth, using a tough pad instead.

Resin Replicas

Madagascar hissing cockroach

Create their distinctive hiss by forcing air through specialized breathing tubes.

Resin Replicas

Beaver teeth

Grow continuously throughout life at about 4 inches per year.

Resin Replicas

Beaver paw

Hind feet are partially webbed with a split second toe used for grooming fur.

Resin Replicas

Iguana head

Have a third 'eye' on top of their head that detects light changes.

Resin Replicas

Iguana foot

Five toes with sharp claws help climb trees and dig burrows.

Miscellaneous

Arrowheads

Can be dated by shape, material, and technique; some over 12,000 years old.

Miscellaneous

Clay bowl

Often made waterproof by rubbing hot animal fat into the surface.