

Let's Go to the Museum! - Educational Offers in the Field of Geosciences

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The "Museum Mensch und Natur" (Museum of Natural History Munich) is the central exhibition forum of the Bavarian Natural History Collections. The mission of the museum is to publicly present selected exhibits of the collections and to communicate up-to-date knowledge in geo- and life sciences in an educational language and form.

Educational programs of the museum provide an important contribution to this task. They address primary and secondary schools and other educational institutions such as nursery schools and private groups. The offer covers public tours for adults, children and families, both in the departments of the permanent and temporary exhibitions. Furthermore special events are organized including public tours and workshops, laboratory activities and excursions. Participation at the "International Museum Day" and the "Long Night of the Museums" are additional examples for the museum's educational activities.

The educational program varies in scope and duration corresponding to the ages of the attendants. One- or two-hours programs are installed for children of preparatory schools in the department "Restless Planet Earth" and "History of Life", whereas one- to three-hours programs are established for children of first to fourth and fifth to thirteenth grades, respectively, in the geological, mineralogical and paleontological departments. Many programs are not limited to a single department, but involve different ones.

The talk provides selected examples of the educational offers in geosciences of the "Museum Mensch und Natur". Furthermore, experience with special programs will be reported and highlighted and it will be shown, how the number of visitors can be increased efficiently by educational offers.

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