

Large-print book

Please do not remove from the gallery



You:Matter
Gallery 1

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Accessible Features

Online

- Audio description by the artists
- Transcripts of spoken content
- Screen reader friendly versions of gallery text



Scan QR code or visit scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/you-matter-access to access resources on museum web page.

In Gallery

For symbol cane users, there is a tactile flooring at the entrance/exit to the Head in the Clouds section to

indicate a hazard from sculptures suspended at head height.

Gallery layout

Gallery 1 is on Level 1 and is accessible via lift or the central stairs.

There is level access throughout the gallery.

Seating is available in two areas of the gallery.

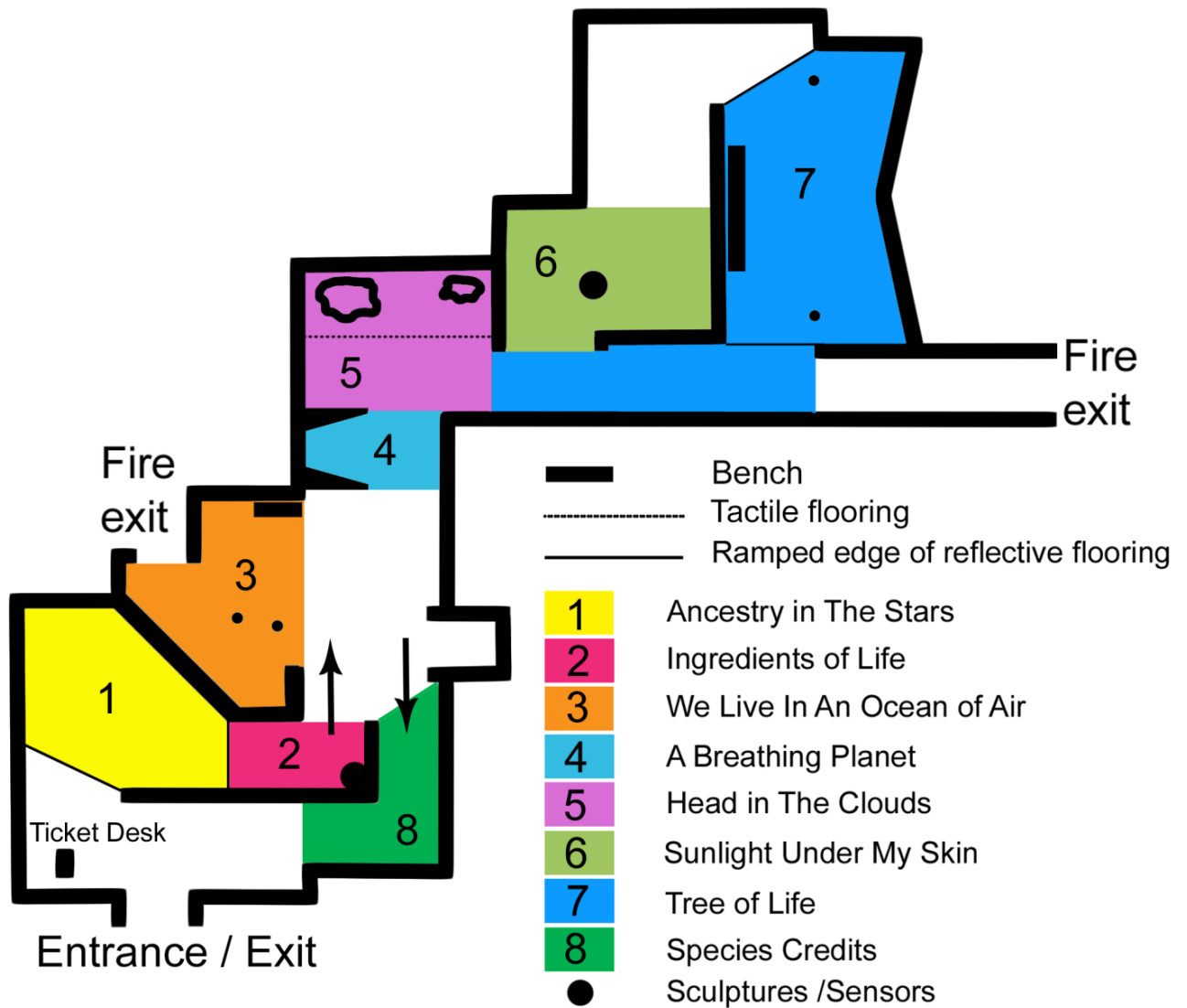
The nearest accessible toilet is in the foyer on Level 0.

Each section leads on from the previous in a clockwise loop, and the entrance doors are also the exit doors. The experience is made up of a series of nine interconnected sections, there are no dividing doors and walkways are all 1.5 meters wide or more. There is loud ambient sound throughout the space and several areas with voiceover. The light levels are low throughout the gallery.

The exhibition entrance is through double automatic doors opposite the lift exit, or along the left hand side of the level 1 landing if coming up the stairs.

Gallery map

Low light levels throughout gallery



Introduction

The introductory space consists of a large artists' statement text on the wall facing you as you enter, a queueing area and a ticket desk are to the left.

After the ticket desk, there is a map of the exhibition on the wall. There is also a text panel introduction to the first experience on this wall.

Gallery text

You:Matter

Where do you end and begin?

From the Big Bang... to right now.

Marshmallow Laser Feast invites you to experience how everything is connected.

From the stars above, to each living cell—from the air we share to the water and light coursing through our bodies—science makes the invisible visible.

Come and learn what you're made of.

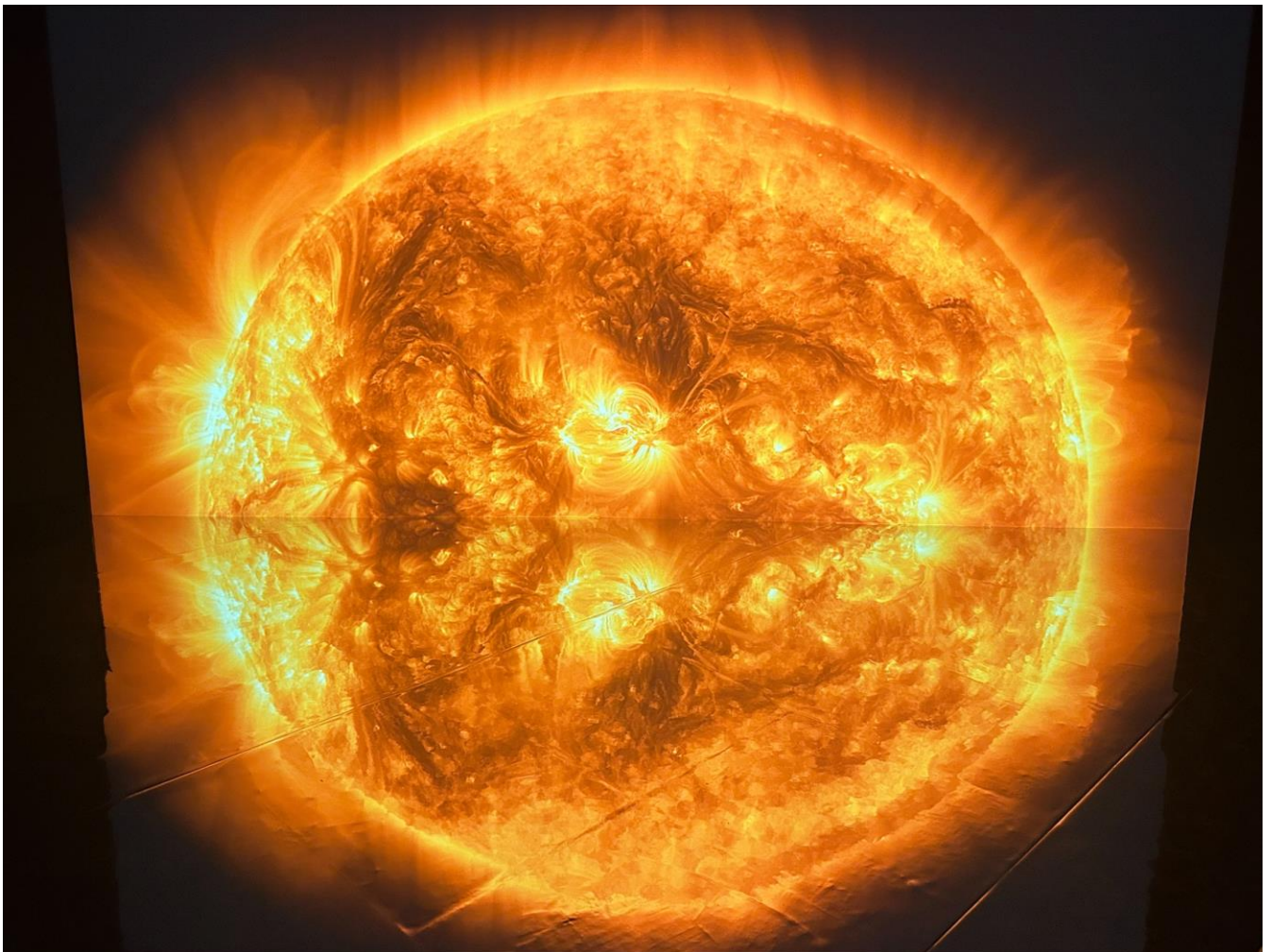
Marshmallow Laser Feast is an experiential artist collective led by directors Robin

McNicholas, Ersin Han Ersin and Barnaby Steel.

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1. Ancestry in the Stars

This is a projection of a digital video artwork onto a wall facing you as you enter. The floor is a reflective surface, there is a soundtrack with a voiceover. There is a walkway across the reflective floor. There is low-level lighting. The exit to this section is to the right of the entrance, along the right-hand wall.



Gallery text

Where are you from?

Consider all the living things on Earth. Each one comes from the molten hearts of ancient stars.

As a human being, you are part of a vast wave of energy that began with the explosion that created our universe.

The Big Bang formed stars. Some stars became planets.

One planet (we know of) grew life.

Hedgehogs, sharks, bats, oak trees, peacocks, molluscs. Shrimp in their billions, ants in their trillions, fungi in their quadrillions. And you. Your lungs, your heart, your blood and brain are all made of star-stuff.

Welcome to the universe... where the stars have aligned to bring us from the Big Bang to Bradford.

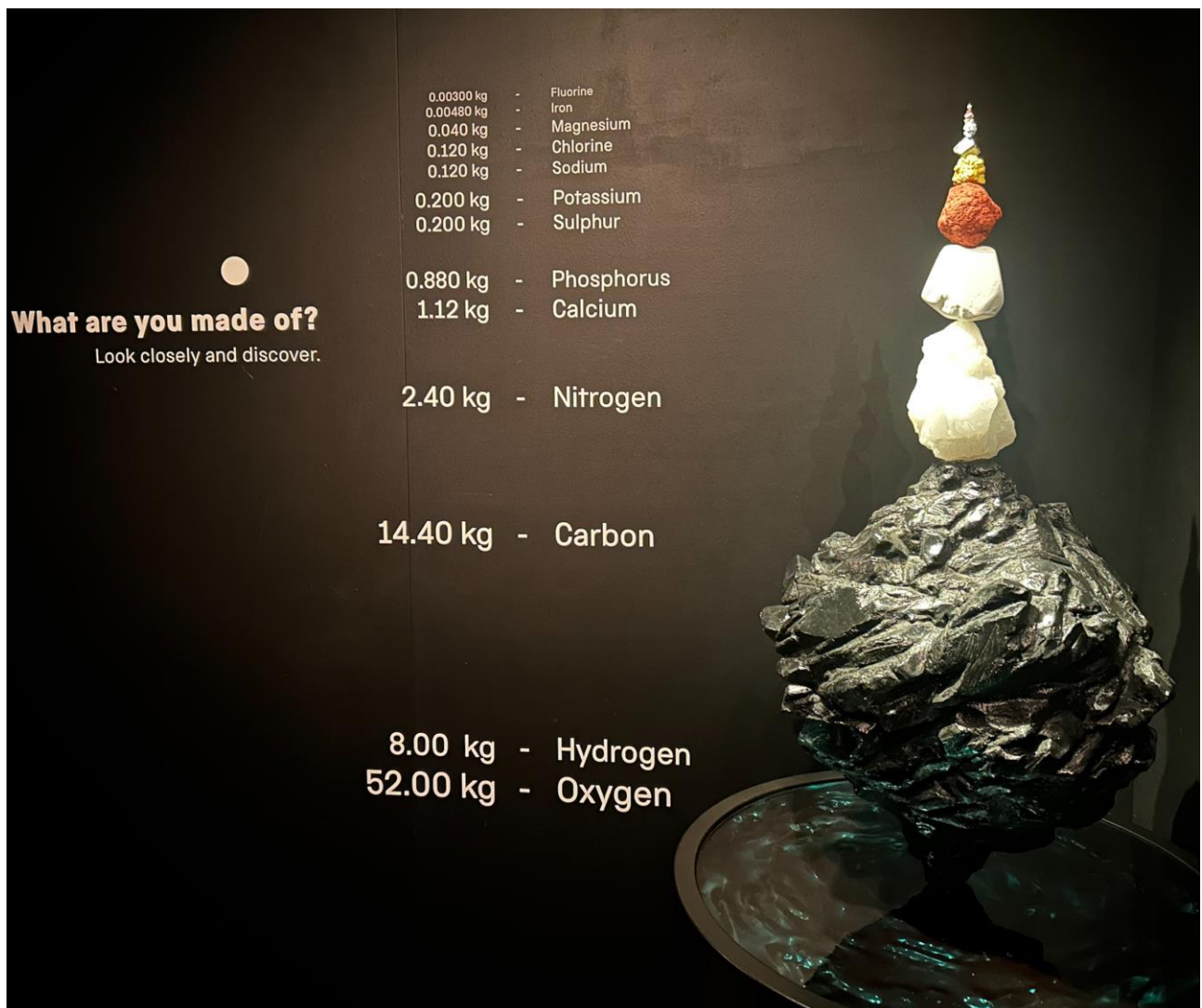
“What is the pattern that connects the crab to the lobster
and the primrose to the orchid, and all of them to me,
and me to you?”

— Gregory Bateson

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2. Ingredients of Life

Entering this section, there is a sculpture in the corner ahead of you, with graphics and information text on the wall to your right and on the wall directly ahead. There is no voiceover in this section.



Gallery Text

What are you made of?

Look closely and discover.

Your body contains many elements. Each one was forged in the explosion of ancient stars.

You are mostly oxygen, carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen. Your other ingredients are trace elements, important but hidden.

From your fingernails and DNA, to the marrow of your bone and the iris of your eye. You are constructed from the same basic building blocks as our universe.

Here is the stuff you are made of.

Your body is a wonderful collection.

“There’s never been something quite like me or like you. You are a miracle of cosmic proportions. And it’s not just other humans or other life; it’s the very bones of the Earth.”

– Michelle Thaller

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3. We Live in an Ocean of Air

There is an introduction panel for this section on the wall straight ahead of you as you exit the third section, also a bench seat. To the left of that is an emergency exit.

The digital artwork itself opens out to the left, a large projection on a wall diagonally across the space with two breath sensors mounted on the floor at different heights. There is an ambient soundtrack in this area. Breathing into the sensors activates the artwork.



Gallery Text

How do your lungs connect you to every plant on earth?

Breathe into the sensors and see.

Plants and animals breathe together.

When they are in sync, flora and fauna are partners.

We inhale oxygen that was breathed out by plants and give carbon dioxide back in return.

This Sequoia tree represents the billions of plants that will enjoy the carbon dioxide you make in your life.

“Breathing involves ... offering ourselves to the world at one moment and drawing the world into ourselves at the next.”

– David Abram

4. A Breathing Planet

Moving around the end of the wall bearing the introduction texts and bench, this section is a partially enclosed space with a video playing at the back of it. The texts to accompany this work are behind you on the wall opposite the screen. There is no voiceover in this section.



Gallery Text

How does our planet inhale and exhale?

See the daily carbon flow of our living world.

Using satellite data, we can see our planet breathing oxygen and carbon dioxide, in and out.

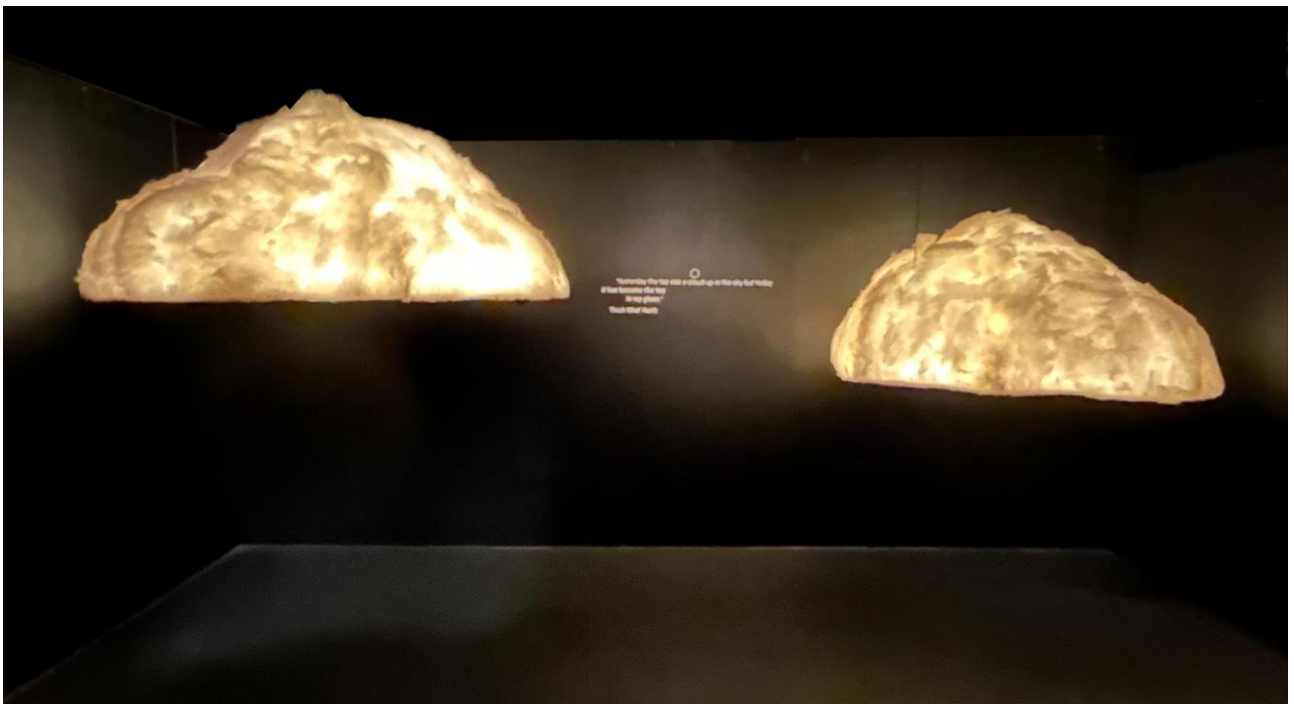
Creatures like us take in oxygen. When fossil fuels are burned, or volcanoes erupt, carbon is let out. Plants play their part by using this carbon to grow, but it's a fragile balance. If carbon is not traded evenly, our planet will be left gasping for air.

“Every breath we take is part of the global carbon cycle, connecting us directly to the planet's breathing system.”

– Miguel Mahecha

5. Head in the Clouds

Exiting the previous section and turning to your left into this space, there are two large illuminated cloud sculptures suspended in the space ahead of you. The information text is on the wall to your right and also in between the clouds ahead of you.



These clouds are designed to duck underneath and stand inside, the cloud on the left comes down to 160cm at the edge, inside it is the right height for a standing adult. The cloud on the right comes down to 120cm at the edge, for seated or smaller adults and children.

Inside the clouds there is a voiceover.

As you approach the clouds there is a strip of tactile flooring across the floor. This indicates the edge of the cloud sculptures is at head height just in front of you. There is no marker in between the two clouds, please take care in this area.

Gallery text

How much of you is H₂O?

Is your main experience of water between the tap and the toilet? Put your head in the cloud to dive deeper.

You are part cloud.

Every cell in your body contains water that has fallen to earth. The molecules of

moisture in your blood and muscles were once streams, melting glaciers and

hurricanes.

All water on our planet is on a journey from solid to liquid to gas and back again. As

ice, vapour, rain and river – water shapes the world we share.

Living things are mostly H₂O. Like a whirlpool in a river, YOU are a shape that water takes.

“Yesterday the tea was a cloud up in the sky but today it has become the tea in my glass.”

– Thich Nhat Hanh

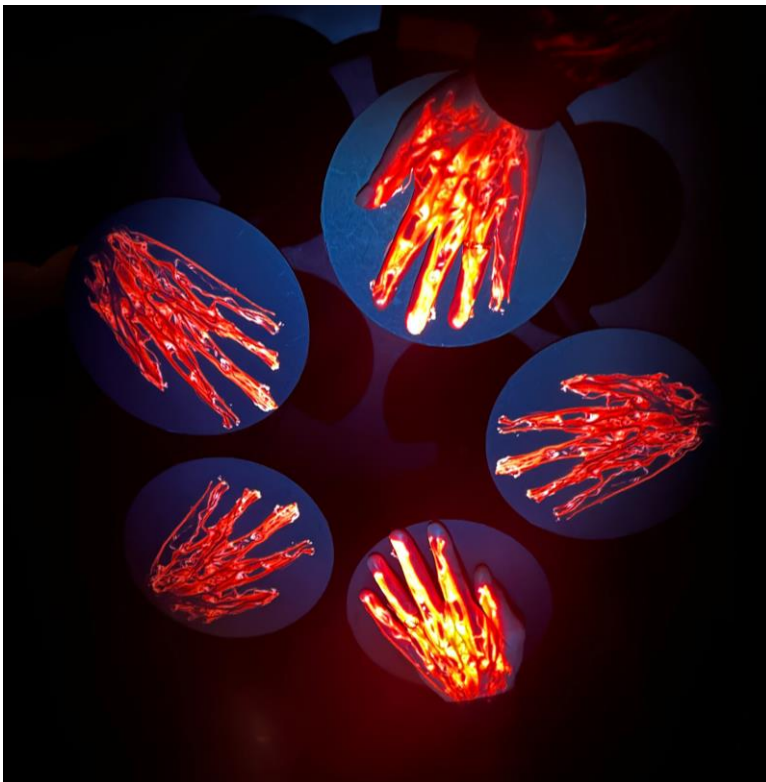
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6. Sunlight Under My Skin

Passing the clouds to your left, turn left to enter the seventh section. There is a plinth in the middle of the floor with five pillars extending upwards to hand height. Place your hand on one of these to activate the artwork.

The information texts are on the walls to your left as you enter this space.

There is an ambient soundtrack and a voiceover in this space.



Gallery text

Are people powered by stars?

Place your hand under the light and see.

The radiance of our sun courses through you.

Every meal you consume is made of sunlight that was spun into glucose (sugar) by plants.

In your cells, a process called respiration releases that plant-processed solar energy.

This is the power of the sun at work inside your body.

Our web of life is woven out of light.

See? You're glowing. Look below the surface of your skin—you're pure starpower.

“We are star stuff harvesting sunlight.”

– Jill Tarter

7. Tree of Life



Passing through the previous section and turning to your right, the information texts for the eighth section are to your left on the wall. There is bench seating in the middle of the space, towards the back wall.

The floor and walls in this area are reflective and a large strip of projections runs all the way across the space on a screen ahead of you. There is an intense ambient soundtrack and voiceover in this section.

In the middle of the floor on front of the projections are two light rings at different heights. Put your face into the light to activate the artwork.

A member of staff will be on duty in this space to assist visitors. There is an emergency exit down a corridor beyond the right-hand end of the projection screen.

Gallery text

How many living forms can there be?

Place your face in the light to join the Tree of Life.

Evolution is like a tree. You are a new sprout on the end of a very long branch which stretches back billions of years.

Every living thing on Earth descended from one common ancestor. This means you are a cousin to mushrooms, leopards, bacteria, falcons and kelp.

The biodiversity of our planet started with a bang... The Big Bang. Life wove itself together out of energy, chemistry, survival and luck.

You are just one small part of our planet's ongoing chemical chain reaction. Water, air, carbon, energy and star-stuff flow through you.

Everything you see was born from stars. The moon and Jupiter, the clouds above, the curve of an ant's antenna, and the fin of a blue whale. The cup of your outstretched hand.

You're in good company.

Welcome home.

“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”

– Rachel Carson

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8. Conclusion and exit

At the exit of the big finale projection space is a large diagram of a phylogenetic 'tree of life' on the wall.

The exit can be found by turning left at the corner after the diagram, then following the wall on your left down a corridor lined with long lists of the species names of all kinds of life-forms on the walls.

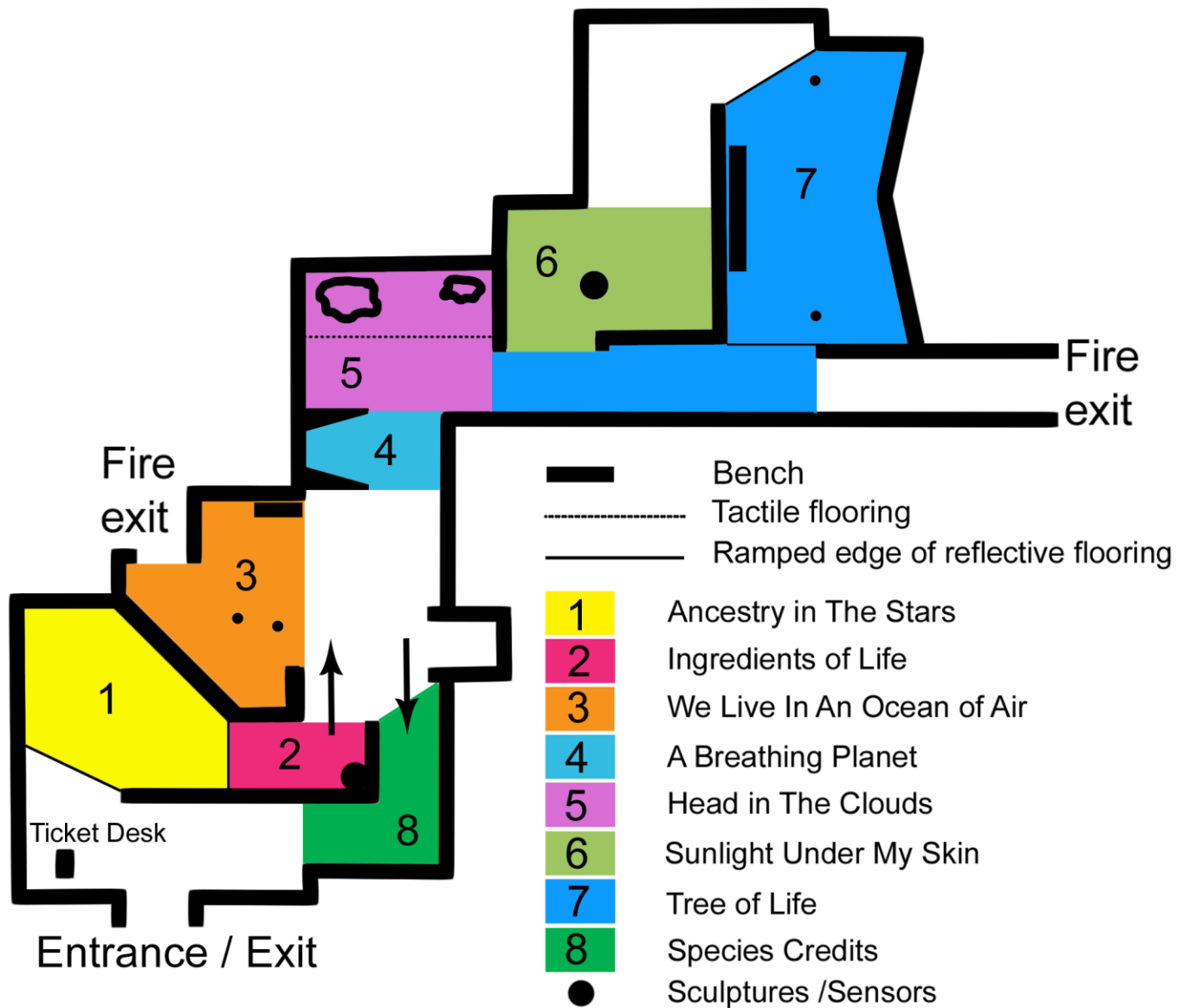
This exit section has no voiceover. The exit doors will be on the left, the same doors you entered through, this area may be crowded.



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Gallery map

Low light levels throughout gallery



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