

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_

[www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)

Intermediate

2-3 class periods

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Visit <http://iteslj.org/t/ws/> for the latest version of this lesson and similar lessons.

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*The Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, DC, is the largest museum and research complex in the world. As might be expected, the web site is huge and multi-layered, but it is not inordinately difficult to navigate. The "objects" lesson within this project has been taken directly from the site's teacher-resources links.*

### What should I do?

Go to [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu). Click on About Smithsonian.

1. When was the institution founded (established)?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (year)

2. By whom? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In the boxes below, write in how many there are:



Museums	
Zoos	
Research facilities	

4. On the home page, click on Museums and on the next page, click on the National Museum of Natural History to answer the questions about dinosaurs. Then click on (a) Museum Directory (b) Paleobiology and (c) Dinosaur exhibits. Then select links to complete the following statement:

Jurassic dinosaurs lived between \_\_\_\_\_ million and \_\_\_\_\_ million years ago.

5. Which Jurassic dinosaur is shown with a 150 million-year-old skull? \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Thinking about objects.** On the next page, look at the following objects from the museum carefully. For each object you are asked to answer the same questions below:

(a). What do you think this coat is made from?



(b) Think of the people who made it. Where do you think they might live? (List two or three places you can think of with your classmates)

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(c) What are these objects on the left? \_\_\_\_\_



(d) And what is the long object above? \_\_\_\_\_

(e) Can you find out the special name for it?



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(f) What are these objects?

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7. What do you think the above objects are made of? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. What do all the objects we've seen tell us about the people who made them?

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9. What kind of environment do these people live in? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Click on National Air and Space Museum and then EXHIBITIONS. Then, scroll down to the various links to the exhibitions. Then match the quotes with the correct link(s). Usually, one link is sufficient, but in Item (f) below you will have to penetrate two links, and (h) has three links. Match the

*Example:*

Quote	First link	Second link
“Fax machines...email: none has replaced the need to travel...”	Business Wings	Introduction

Quote	First link	Second link
(a) “Commercial aviation began in 1914...”		(no second link)
(b) “..the first decade of powered flight...”		(no second link)
(c) “Two college students in their early twenties, one English and one German...”		(no second link)
(d) “Five hundred years ago...”		(no second link)
(e) “In 1961, President John F. Kennedy committed the United States to...”		(no second link)
(f) “Spacecraft in orbit don’t float. They FALL around the earth.”	1.	2.
(g) “...the most significant recent advance in technology for determining position...”		(no second link)
(h) “No single space project...will be more exciting...”	1.	2. 3.
(i) “Mitsubishi A.M5 Zero”		(no second link)
(j) “...the airliner has revolutionized the way people travel...”		(no second link)



*End of lesson.  
Answer on next page.*

## Answer key

1. 1846
2. James Smithson
3. 16 museums; one zoo; “numerous” research facilities
4. 210 and 145 million
5. Camarasaurus
- 6-9. Variable answers—but students should be able to figure out that these items are most likely used by Eskimos or other cultures in Arctic climates.
- 10.

Quote	First link	Second link
“Fax machines...email: none has replaced the need to travel...”	Business Wings	Introduction

Quote	First link	Second link
(a) “Commercial air transportation began in 1914...”	Air transportation	(no second link)
(b) “Experience the early history of the airplane...”	Early flight	(no second link)
(c) “Two college students in their early twenties, one English and one German...”	Jet Aviation	(no second link)
(d) “Five hundred years ago...”	Where next, Columbus?	(no second link)
(e) “In 1961, President John F. Kennedy committed the United States to...”	Lunar Exploration Vehicles	(no second link)
(f) “Spacecraft in orbit don’t float. They FALL around the earth.”	1. How things fly	2. How DO things fly?
(g) “...the most significant recent advance in navigation and positioning technology...”	GPS: A new constellation	(no second link)
(h) “No single space project...will be more exciting...”	1. Apollo to the Moon	2. Enter 3. Introduction
(i) “Mitsubishi A6M5 Zero”	World War II Aviation	(no second link)
(j) “...In 1911, William Randolph Hearst offered a prize of \$50,000 for the first pilot...”	Pioneers of Flight	(no second link)