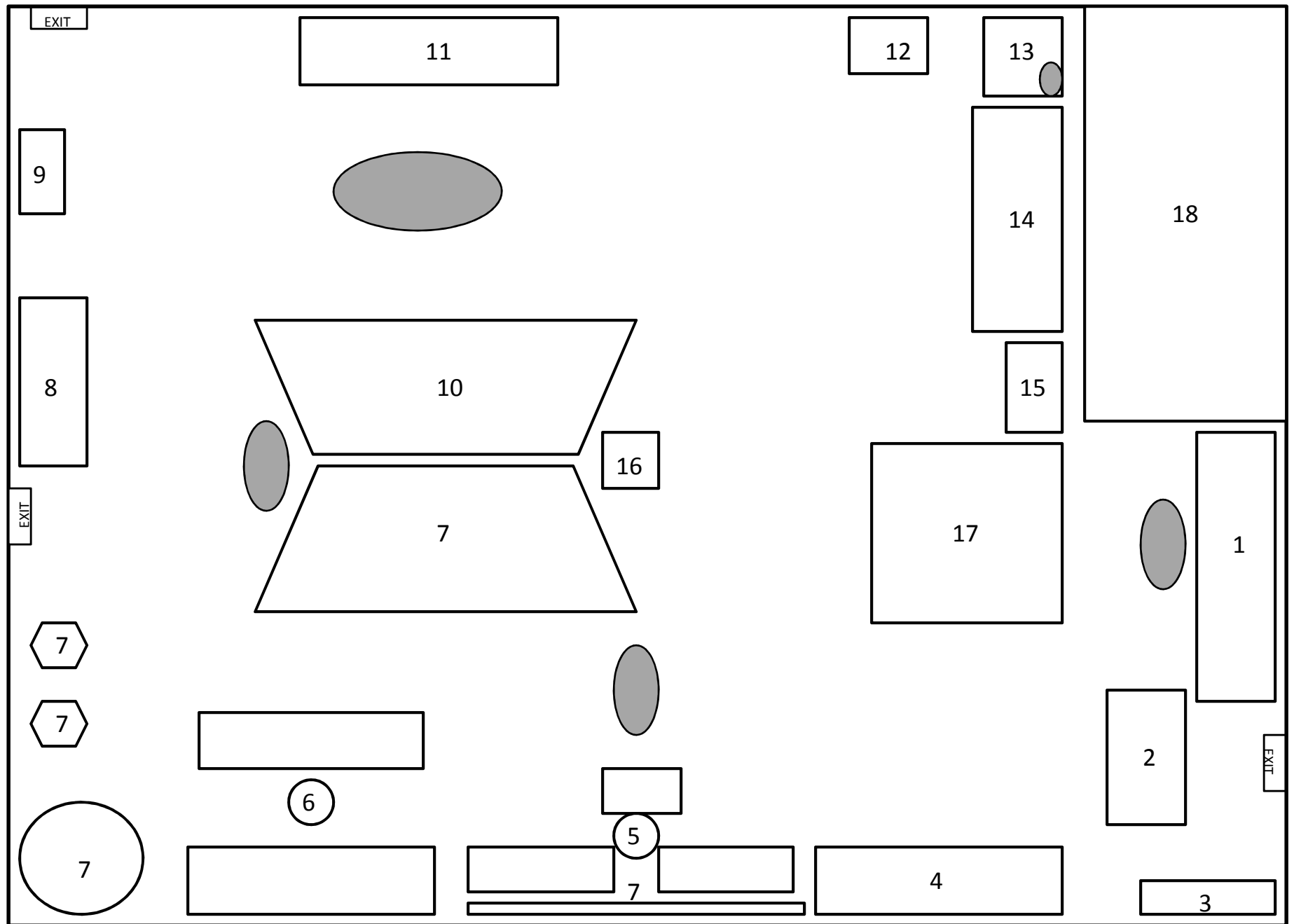


Georgia College Natural History Museum and Planetarium Floor Map



Georgia College Natural History Museum and Planetarium Exhibit Guide

- 1. Observation Room:** This room was originally designed as an observation laboratory where visitors could witness fossil preparation in progress. Presently, this room houses the approximately 100,000 specimens of the GCSU Entomology Collection.
- 2. Future Cave Life Exhibit:** This exhibit will feature a life-like ‘cave’ where visitors can learn about characteristic cave formations and unique cave ecology.
- 3. Future Geologic Wonders of Georgia Exhibit:** Visitors can learn about the unique geologic resources and characteristics of Georgia.
- 4. The Formation of Fossils:** This exhibit features an introduction to fossils and the processes of fossilization. Examples of each process are on display.
- 5. Invertebrates:** This display offers a collection of some of the earliest and simplest life forms. Fossils on display span the ages from 543 million to 100,000 years ago.
- 6. The Age of Fishes:** This exhibit includes glimpses into underwater ocean life, fish, mega sharks, and the evolution of tetrapods and amphibians.
- 7. The Age of Reptiles:** Fossils and recent specimens alike are on display. Highlights of this exhibit include an Ichthyosaur, a menacing *Tyrannosaurus rex*, a Komodo Dragon, and the “missing link” fossil, *Archaeopteryx*.
- 8. Fossil Plants:** The importance of studying ancient plant life is the main theme of this exhibit which includes some familiar plant specimens.
- 9. The Hardie Mine Site:** Just next door to Milledgeville, this fossil-bearing site in Wilkinson County contains many marine species such as stingrays, whales, sharks, sea turtles, and sea snakes.
- 10. Evolution of the Modern Mammalian Fauna:** Explore the 30 to 40 million year old grasslands of North America and the surprising mammal species that evolved on our own continent. In this exhibit visitors can learn how climate change drives biotic evolution.
- 11. The Great American Biotic Interchange:** For millions of years North and South America were isolated from each other. Plate tectonic processes joined the two continents between 5 to 2 million years ago. Discover the ancient and sometimes bizarre fossils that are found in Florida.
- 12. Birds:** GCSU’s Natural History Collections include many groups of organisms. A portion of the ornithology collection is on display emphasizing the great diversity of bird feeding mechanisms. Visitors may also view several extinct species of birds.
- 13. The Cave Bear:** A fully articulated fossil of a Cave Bear, one of the largest bear species once native to Europe and Asia, is on display.
- 14. The Pleistocene of Georgia: “The Ice Age”:** Giant Bison and Columbian Mammoth fossils from Brunswick, Georgia are the featured creatures of this exhibit. Climate change and the most recent North American “Ice Age” are important topics in this exhibit.
- 15. *Smilodon gracilis*:** The skeleton of a saber-toothed cat that stalked the North American landscape as little as 500,000 years ago.
- 16. Rodent and Rabbit Evolution:** Information from studies explain the difference between the high diversity of rodents compared to the relatively low diversity of rabbits. A collection of recent and fossil skulls are on display.
- 17. The Diversity of Modern Primates and The Path to Modern Humans:** Many recent primate species are exhibited, along with information and fossil representations of the lineage of the human species including *Australopithecus*.
- 18. Planetarium:** The GCSU Planetarium opened in the fall of 2008. Here visitors may view digital simulations of the sky in an immersive 20 ft diameter dome view with guides, labels, and motion. The planetarium also has the ability to display full dome show content.

Indicated on the Floor Map are several **shaded ovals**. These ovals, along with several more specimens (not indicated) located along the entry path to the Natural History Museum, represent the areas where life-like mounts of mammals can be seen. Mammals from North America and Eastern Hemisphere countries such as Africa and Asia can be observed up close.



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Natural History Museum
and Planetarium