

**2010-11 Harris Loan Materials Available at Ryerson Woods
Exhibit Cases**



Anemone, Rue

This early blooming flower prefers a shady location and good soil. Good for gardening, the Rue Anemone returns year after year, ever increasing in size.
Exhibit Case - Middle/Jr. High - Botany, Woodland



Blue Jay

Study the exquisite colorations of this bird, common to central and eastern North America. The Blue Jay usually grows up to a foot long, and feeds chiefly on large insects, seeds, and nuts.
Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Butterfly, Viceroy

Don't confuse this butterfly with the Monarch—they may look similar, but they don't smell the same. The Viceroy employs protective mimicry to fool predators into believing it releases the same unpleasant odor as the Monarch.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Insect



Cardinal

Witness the romantic nature of the male cardinal, who sings and attends to his mate. These bright red birds do not migrate outside of the central and southern United States.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Carnivorous Plants

Discover the methods by which these unique plants derive a fraction of their nourishment from the capture and digestion of small animals. The Pitcher Plant, Venus Flytrap, Sundew and Bladderwort all use specialized techniques to carry out their carnivorous diet.

Exhibit Case - Middle/Jr. High - Botany, Prairie



Common Moths

Discover the dazzling characteristics that classify these familiar four-winged insects. Moths, while not as colorful as their butterfly counterparts, are found in nearly every part of the world.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Insect



Duck, Mallard

Discover the gender differences in this well known duck found all over North America—males with bright green features and females of a monotonous brown.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds

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Duck, Wood

Witness the dynamic colorations of this, the only pond duck to make its nest in a tree.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Dwarf Wild Rose

Transport yourself back in time to the origin of common domestic roses. The Dwarf Wild Rose is but one of 50 wild roses still growing in the United States, and can be found over much of the eastern half of the country.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Botany, Prairie



Goldfinch

Marvel at the bright yellow plumage and black tails of this pair of Goldfinches.

Found most often in flocks, these birds spend autumn searching for their favorite food - seeds from thistles and sunflowers.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Insect: Butterflies, Common

Flutter into the enchanting world of the butterfly. Sixteen specimens from the Chicago area exhibit the breath-taking structure and color found in butterflies of this region.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Insect



Insects: Winter Forms

Did you ever wonder where insects go during frigid Chicago winters? Find out here, as the winter homes of a variety of insects—including cocoons, pods, and plants—are exhibited and explained.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Insect



Jack In the Pulpit

As a perennial, this plant will grow for many successive years on the same rootstock. The flowers of the Jack-in-the Pulpit are small, hidden, and petal-less, growing in a preferred environment of rich, moist woods. This case features flowers growing against tree trunks.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Botany, Woodland

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Kildeer, Plover

Consider the falcon-like characteristics of this common summer resident of Illinois, a member of the Plover family. Often found in pastures and cultivated fields, a pair of Killdeers are shown here with their nest.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Mammal, Red Fox

Check out this prairie-dwelling red fox cub. As a member of the dog family, he eats small rodents and rabbits, and is known for his craftiness.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Mammal



Marigold, Marsh

This wild flower only grows in marshes. Also known as "Little Frog" because it only lives in water, blooms late spring and early and summer. Related to the Buttercup this large flower has no true petals.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Botany, Prairie



May Apple

Don't confuse this fruit with a relative of the apple—it's actually a seed-filled berry. Examples of flowering, almost ripe, apples during the early spring show how these plants grow close together, emerging each year.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Botany, Woodland



Mink

Learn about the aquatic nature of these excellent swimmers, who hunt for food on both land and water.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Mammal



Mushrooms

Did you know that mushrooms belong to the fungi division of the plant kingdom, which also includes mildews, molds, rusts, and yeasts? Lacking a true root system, as well as chlorophyll, these fungi are dependent on other organisms for sustenance, and are therefore parasites. A number of specimens are shown here, including the Gemmed Puffball, Morel, Field or Horse mushroom, and Pear-shaped Puffball.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Botany, Woodland

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Nests, Birds'

Deconstruct the diverse workings of six different birds' nest, from the Killdeer's hollow in the ground to the elaborate basket-like structure of the Oriole.
Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Oak, Black

With over eighty kinds of oaks native to North America, the most common oak in Chicago is a giant. The Black Oak can soar to well over one hundred feet, with a trunk diameter stretching seven feet across. This tree grows best in clay or on dry, sandy hillsides and can live to almost two hundred years. This display examines the different aspects of the Oak tree with specimens from both the male and female flowers, as well as a flowering tree.
Exhibit Case - Elementary - Botany, Woodland



Oriole, Baltimore or Northern

Discover why the Northern Oriole is so popular in the eastern United States. The vibrant coloring, interesting nesting habits, and fondness for humans of this bird all contribute to its likeability.
Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Owl, Screech

Discover the loyalty this noisy bird has to Illinois—as the most abundant owl in our area, the Screech Owl never migrates from its Midwestern home. Found anywhere from remote wooded areas to the shade trees of city parks, this owl takes an important place in the food chain with its diet of small rodents.
Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Purple Trillium

Check out this enchanting flower, native to North America and East Asia. The leaves, petals, and sepals of these Trillium are characteristically in tree forms, with single white or purple flowers. Both Native Americans and early colonists used the Trillium's rootstock medicinally.
Exhibit Case - Elementary - Botany, Woodland



Ragwort, Golden

Get to know the Golden Ragwort, a common spring sight in Illinois. Three main types grow here, and are best identified by the form of their leaves, growing alongside a brilliant yellow flower on a low, herbaceous plant.
Exhibit Case - Elementary - Botany, Woodland

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Skunk

Enjoy the beauty of this colorful little creature without the smell!
Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Mammal



Snakes

Investigate the characteristics that all snakes have in common: a long, flexible body covered with overlapping scales, forked tongues, and a lack of external ears. Specimens exhibited here will help you learn to identify some common snakes from Illinois.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Herps and Fish



Sparrows

Discover the territorial and rather haphazard methods the male sparrows use in nesting season. Sparrows breed mostly in the months from March through August, remaining loosely monogamous. Sixteen different sparrow specimens are shown here, demonstrating Chicago's most abundant types.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Starling, Feather Changes of

Explore the extraordinary changes this bird undergoes between summer and winter. A resident of Eurasia and North Africa, the Starling uses light coloration in the summer and dark in the winter to best adapt to his surroundings.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Story of Chocolate

Dive in the fascinating world of chocolate! Experience the ecological, biological and commercial importance of this treat—with a history dating back to the ancient Maya. Note: This box weighs approximately fifty pounds, and should be handled by two people.

Exhibit Case - Middle/Jr. High - Botany, Economic



Swallow, Barn

Nestle down with a family of these birds, who only make their homes in the rafters of barns in more populated areas. Barn swallows are excellent hunters, often seen skimming low over fields to gobble up insects.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds

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Tanager and Cowbird

Discover the crafty, parasitic methods this bird uses to feed and raise its young. The Cowbird, usually seen on the backs of or at the feet of pasture cattle, lays her eggs in the nest of a smaller bird who dutifully raises it as her own.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Waxwing, Cedar

Listen in on the conversations of the Cedar Waxwing, found in flocks of up to 50. A common summer resident of Illinois, this bird communicates with a “lisp” sound that can be heard for several hundreds of yards.

Exhibit Case - Elementary - Zoology, Birds



Woodchuck

Notice the similarities between the woodchuck and its close relative the squirrel. Find out how civilization has moved its habitat from woods to open fields.

Exhibit Case - Middle/Jr. High - Zoology, Mammal



Woodpeckers

Examine the capable bodies of these abundant Midwestern birds. Six common species of Woodpecker are shown here, highlighting the foot structure, stiff feathers, chisel-like beak and barbed tongue that allow these birds to be so versatile.