

National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
Exhibits & Habitats Categorized by Iowa's Science: Disciplinary Core Ideas (2025)

Life Science (LS)

- LS1: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
- LS2: Ecosystems, Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
- LS3: Heredity, Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- LS4: Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

EAST BUILDING: NATIONAL RIVER CENTER	OUTDOOR LOCATIONS	WEST BUILDING: MISSISSIPPI RIVER CENTER	STATION ACTIVITIES IDEAS
• Kelp Forest Habitat • Tidepool Touch Tank • Jetties Habitat • Sea Stars • Lionfish • Endangered Species Exhibit • Vaquita Exhibit • Giant Pacific Octopus • Moon Jellies • Lobster • Seahorse • Seagrass & Garden Eels • Mangroves Habitat • Upside Down Jellies • Delta mural exhibit • Stingrays • 4D Movie: Coral Sea	• Aviaries • Greenhouse • Native Plants • Native & Honey Bees • Raptor Roost • Outdoor Otter Habitat • Wetlands Habitat	• Backwater Marsh Habitat • Prairie Root Exhibit • Rootpull Interactive • Erosion Table Interactive • Flooded Forest & Indoor Otter Habitat • Main Channel Aquariums • Upper Mississippi Pool & Paddlefish • Trout Stream • Bayou Habitat & Alligator • Fish & Wildlife Refuge Area Creature Feature Daily Program • Narwhal Exhibit (May – Sept)	• Rivers to the Sea Food Web Activity • Native Plant Survival Game • Ecosystem Jenga • Mississippi River Center Scavenger Hunt • Observe and Design a Habitat • Roots to Rivers: Sort it Out! Composting Activity • Nature Seek & Find • Fish Identification Activity • Bird Beak Buffett Relay • Seed Dispersal Relay Race • Animal Biofacts (furs, wings, skulls pelts, etc.)

Physical Science (PS)

- PS1: Matter and Its Interactions
- PS2: Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions
- PS3: Energy
- PS4: Waves and their Applications in Technology for Information Transfer

EAST BUILDING: NATIONAL RIVER CENTER	OUTDOOR LOCATIONS	EAST BUILDING: NATIONAL RIVER CENTER	STATION ACTIVITIES IDEAS
• Music Interactive • Shells and Ocean Acidification Exhibit • RiverWorks Discovery Splash Zone Interactives	• Blacksmith Shop • Boatyard Exhibits • William M Black's Steam Powered Engines	• Belt Driven Machine Shop • Furnace and Logs interactive • Solar Power & Wind Turbine interactive • Balance Barge interactive • Fluid Dynamics interactive • Gears & Simple Machines exhibit • Water Table Interactive • MakerSpace	• STEM Challenge: Wind Turbine • STEM Challenge: Boat Capacity • Currents of Innovation Competition • Full Steam Ahead: Steam Engine Demonstrations • Make Waves: Boat Launch Demonstration • Forged with Fire: Blacksmith Demonstration • Chunky

Earth & Space Science (ESS)

- ESS1: Earth's Place in the Universe
- ESS2: Earth's Systems
- ESS3: Earth and Human Activity

EAST BUILDING: NATIONAL RIVER CENTER	OUTDOOR LOCATIONS	WEST BUILDING: MISSISSIPPI RIVER CENTER	STATION ACTIVITIES IDEAS
• Rivers to the Sea Watersheds • Gulf of Mexico's Dead Zone • Marshall Islands Exhibit • Coral Reef Habitats • Riverworks Discovery Interactives • Water Cycle Bikes • Conservation Lab • Project Piaba • Tri-state Observation Tower • Live Webcam: Mississippi River	• Mississippi River • Dubuque's Flood Wall, Flood Gate • Port of Dubuque Mariana & Ice Harbor • Greenhouse • Native Plants • Native & Honey Bees • Mussel Conservation on lower dock • Wetlands Habitat • Raptor Roost • Outdoor Otter Habitat	• Mississippi Watershed Map • Prairie Root Exhibit • Rootpull Interactive • Erosion Table • Saving Species • Learning Lab: Nature Interactives • Wingdams Habitat • Paw Patrol (Rotating Exhibit June – Sept.) • Typographical Interactive Map	• Roots to Rivers: Rooted and Responsible Activity • Model Solutions to Wind Erosion • Design a Landscape to limit Water Runoff • Experience the Driftless' Geology & Geography • Monarch Migration Simulation • Oh Deer! Limited Resources Game • STEM Challenge: Wacky Weather Structures • Guided walk to Mississippi River, Pavilion, Flood Wall, Riverwalk

Engineering, Technology & Society (ETS)

- ETS1: Engineering Design
- ETS2: Links Among Engineering, Technology, Science and Society

EAST BUILDING: NATIONAL RIVER CENTER	OUTDOOR LOCATIONS	WEST BUILDING: MISSISSIPPI RIVER CENTER	STATION ACTIVITIES IDEAS
• River Alterations Exhibit • Our Changing Rivers Exhibit • RiverWorks Discovery Splash Zone Interactives	• William M. Black Dredging Boat • Blacksmith Shop • Boatyard Exhibits • Logsdon Sand & Gravel Barge	• Lock and Dam Exhibit • Barging Ahead Exhibit • Space Wall Exhibit • River of Innovation • Belt Driven Machine Shop • Furnace and Logs interactive • Solar Power & Wind Turbine interactive • Balance Barge interactive • Fluid Dynamics interactive • Gears & Simple Machines exhibit • Water Table Interactive • MakerSpace • Snoopy Soars with NASA (Special Exhibit: Oct-April)	• STEM Challenge: Wacky Weather Structures • STEM Challenge: Wind Turbine • STEM Challenge: Boat Capacity • STEM Challenge: New Inventions