



About the Peabody Museum of Natural History

The mission of the Peabody Museum is to serve Yale University by advancing our understanding of earth's history through geological, biological, and anthropological research, and by communicating the results of this research to the widest possible audience through publication, exhibition, and educational programs.

Fundamental to this mission is stewardship of the museum's rich collections, which provide a record of the history of the earth, its life, and its cultures. Conservation, augmentation, and use of these collections have become increasingly urgent as modern threats to the diversity of life and culture continue to intensify, notes Skelly.

Founded in 1866 with a gift from international financier George Peabody, the Peabody Museum of Natural History has for 150 years acquired, studied, protected, and displayed its ever-expanding collections. Among the museum's 13 million items are iconic fossils, ethnographic pieces, historical flora, and extinct species — a record of the history of Earth, its life, and its cultures. More than mere curios, these objects represent key cornerstones in our understanding of the natural world. Taken together, the Peabody's collections illuminate advancements in knowledge over the past 200 years and reveal important connections between social change and the evolution of science, says Skelly. The Peabody has one of the best-developed and expansive collection digitization programs among natural history institutions in the United States.

The museum's original building opened on the corner of Elm and High streets in 1876. It was demolished in 1917 to create space for new dormitories. The current building, at 170 Whitney Ave., opened to the public in 1926. Only about 5,000 of the Peabody's 13 million items are on permanent display in the museum's galleries.

The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History is committed to the Yale Sustainability Action Plan 2013-2016.

For more information about the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, visit <http://peabody.yale.edu/>.