

## Let's Go (Log on) to a Science Museum

Whether you are seeking background information for an editing project or just want a break, consider visiting an online science exhibit. Here's a list of online science exhibits that will help you learn more about different scientific disciplines, from materials science to geology.

### **Strange Matter Exhibit**

[www.strangematterexhibit.com](http://www.strangematterexhibit.com)

If you are tired of handling plain paper and feeling keyboards, try the Strange Matter Exhibit and get a glimpse of what's inside everyday stuff. You can zoom into stuff, transform stuff, crash stuff, and even improve stuff. Through interactive animations, you can zoom inside a soda can down to the atomic level or discover how to transform sand into a cell phone. The site also includes video interviews with materials-science researchers. With the Strange Matter Exhibit, the Ontario Science Centre offers a fun showcase of materials science. The exhibit opened 28 June 2003 and ran until 4 January 2004. After that date, Strange Matter began its travel to other museums and science centers in North America.

### **Museum of Science**

[www.mos.org/exhibits/online\\_exhibits.html](http://www.mos.org/exhibits/online_exhibits.html)

The online exhibits of the Museum of Science in Boston will make you as curious as a little kid. Exhibits teach the basics of robotics and aging, invite you to explore Antarctica and Mount Everest, introduce you to Leonardo da Vinci and a bunch of virtual fish, and amaze you with a gallery of electron-microscopic images among other things. The home page provides an introduction and the links to the different exhibits.

### **The Heart: An Online Exploration**

[www.fi.edu/biosci/index.html](http://www.fi.edu/biosci/index.html)

The Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia has an informative and daz-

zling exhibit on the human heart. But you don't need to go to Philadelphia to see it. You can go online and do all this: "Explore the heart. Discover the complexities of its development and structure. Follow the blood through the blood vessels. Wander through the weblike body systems. Learn how to have a healthy heart and how to monitor your heart's health. Look back at the history of heart science."

### **The Virtual Museum of Minerals and Molecules**

[www.soils.wisc.edu/virtual\\_museum/index.html](http://www.soils.wisc.edu/virtual_museum/index.html)

Do you want to see minerals and molecules in three dimensions? Go to this Web site, download the plug-in, and start zooming and rotating and visualizing every part of a molecule of your choice. This instructive site, by the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin Minerals & Molecules Project, will give you not only an interactive view of molecules and minerals but also background information and reference bibliography for further reading.

### **The Dynamic Earth**

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

Can you tell granite from sandstone? Now you can, with this interactive exhibit on geology by the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Here you will find information on rocks, minerals, volcanoes, gems, meteorites, caves, and more. The Dynamic Earth is ideal for editors in search of geology-related pictures and graphics or simply basic information on geology. The Web site can be seen in a multimedia version (text, images, and animations—requires the Flash plug-in) or a printable version (mostly text).

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