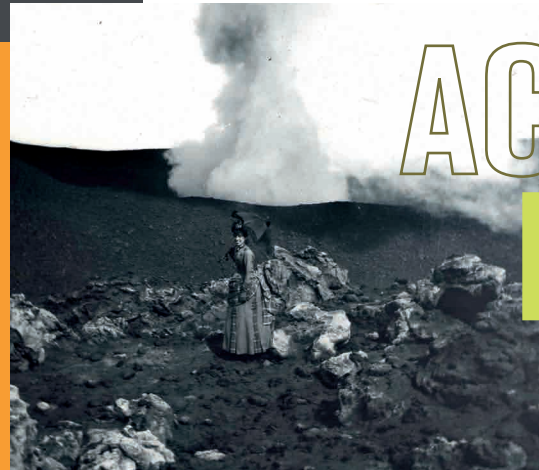


What are minerals and why are they important?

Minerals have played a vital role within the history and heritage of the Midlands. Our gallery explores the diversity of the mineral kingdom and shows the importance of minerals in our everyday lives.

A mineral is a naturally occurring, inorganic substance with a distinctive atomic structure and well-defined chemical composition. There are around 4,900 recognised minerals. Some, such as quartz and calcite, are common. Others, such as diamond, gold and platinum, are rare and valuable. Rocks are made of minerals – so minerals are the building blocks of the geological world.

MINERAL WEALTH



ACTIVE EARTH



Why do we have volcanoes and earthquakes?

Earth is 4.5 billion years old and is still active. Its surface is divided into tectonic plates, which are always moving. Along the plate margins, where new crust is created and destroyed, volcanoes erupt and earthquakes happen. These, and events such as tsunamis, can have a devastating impact on life and the environment around them. Where plates collide they can also form mountain chains – the structures and layers in these help us understand how and when they formed.



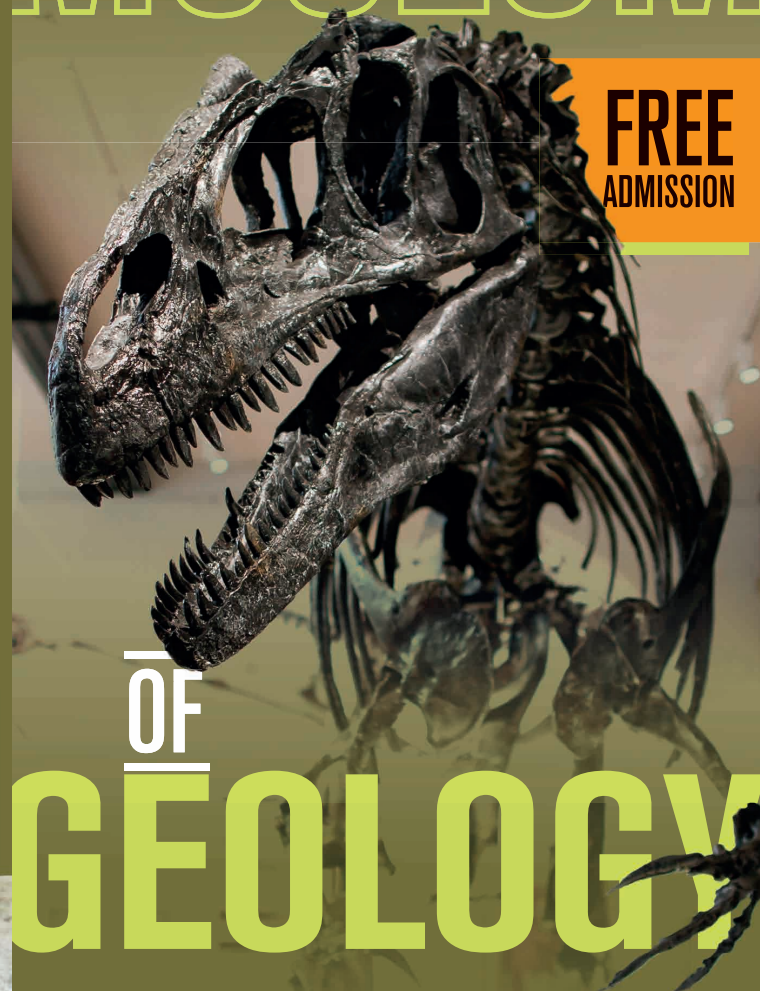
What are fossils and how do they form?

Life on Earth is incredibly diverse. Millions of species alive today evolved from a single ancestor that lived over 3.5 billion years ago. Fossils provide us with important evidence of how life has evolved over time. The Museum contains a record of the invasion of land, the growth of forests, and the rise of animals such as insects, dinosaurs and humans. The fossil record is not complete, but new discoveries allow scientists to keep writing fresh chapters in the story of life.

EVOLUTION OF LIFE



LAPWORTH MUSEUM



FREE
ADMISSION

OF GEOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

LAPWORTH
MUSEUM
OF GEOLOGY

ENGAGE
DISCOVER
EXPLORE

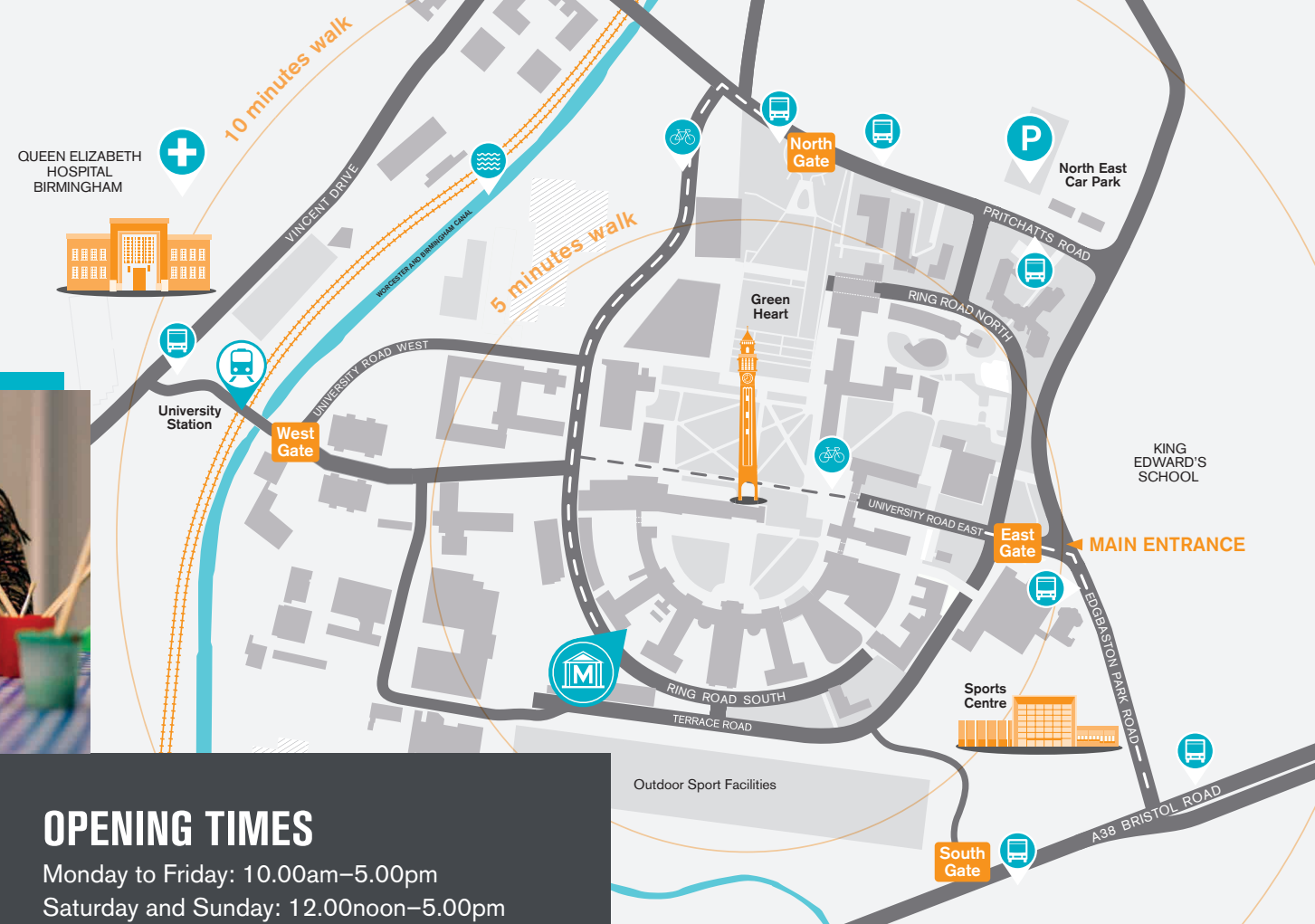
#LAPWORTHROCKS

The Lapworth Museum of Geology dates back to 1880 and is named after Charles Lapworth, one of the most important and influential geologists in the late 19th and early 20th century. It is one of the oldest specialist geological museums in the UK and holds in excess of 300,000 diverse and outstanding objects.

Explore life over 3.5 billion years using our exceptional objects, many of which originate from the Midlands area. A visit to the Lapworth Museum provides a fascinating insight into how the Earth formed and changed over time, and how life on Earth developed and evolved. The museum captures the imagination of all ages with state of the art galleries, interactive exhibits, soundscapes and animations recreating the Midlands environment from up to 425 million years ago.



LEARNING & DISCOVERY



WELCOME

Schools and Educational Group Visits

The Museum is a valuable resource for schools, colleges, universities, adult education and community groups plus anyone with an interest in geology. Our engaging and knowledgeable learning team run a fantastic range of free Primary and Secondary School workshops. Please get in touch to discuss how we can help engage your group!

Activities and Events

The Museum has a busy programme of engaging public events throughout the year. Whether you want to enjoy a family fun day, be captivated by a 'behind the scenes' tour or a public lecture, or get creative with arts and research – there is something for everyone. See our website or social media pages for details about what's coming up soon!

OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday: 10.00am–5.00pm
Saturday and Sunday: 12.00noon–5.00pm

FACILITIES

- Fully accessible
- Free identification service for geological items
- Retail area with bespoke items for sale

HOW TO FIND US

Lapworth Museum of Geology,
University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TT
T: 0121 414 7294 E: lapworth@contacts.bham.ac.uk
www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/lapworth-museum/visit

LapworthMuseumofGeology

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