



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS IN OUR BUILDING

## *The Wagner Free Institute History Scavenger Hunt*

Follow the questions through the building to learn about the history of the Wagner and its building.

Answer questions 1 and 2 using information found on the plaques in the entryway.

1. William Wagner had a vision for the Institute's new home and hired this architect, who later designed Philadelphia's City Hall, to draw the design in 1859. \_\_\_\_\_ (AIA plaque)  
He designed a free-standing classical revival building on the highest point between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. The building is set back from the street to ensure uninterrupted light for the exhibition hall.
2. The new building was inaugurated on May 11, 1865. What year was the building designated a National Historic Landmark? \_\_\_\_\_ (NHL plaque)

Answer questions 3 and 4 using information found in the main hallway.

3. Before officially incorporating the Wagner Free Institute of Science on March 9, 1855, William Wagner offered free lectures in a 'cabinet' he built on the grounds of his country estate \_\_\_\_\_.  
The Institute's first home, from 1855-1859, was \_\_\_\_\_ (History panel)
4. When this building opened in 1865, the area was still quite rural. However, the hustle and bustle of the city was quickly making its way north. One of the earliest professional baseball fields was just south east of the building. You can see the Wagner in the background of a game being played on October 30, 1865 between these two teams \_\_\_\_\_ (Baseball print)

Answer questions 5 and 6 in the lecture hall. Walk to the left and go to the back of the lecture hall.

(Please complete these questions when a lesson is not in session.)

5. The Lecture Hall, modeled after the one in James Renwick's recently opened Smithsonian Institute, originally had narrow wooden benches. In 1895, the benches were replaced by the folding wood and iron seats you see today. What were the wire racks under the seat used for? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Hint: There are 2 black ones set on top of the cabinet to the right of the lecture table.)
6. William Wagner, whose portrait hangs to the right of the large projection screen in the lecture hall, lectured in Geology and Mineralogy in 1865. He believed in supplementing lectures with specimens and images to better engage the students. He encouraged all his professors to use lantern slides to illustrate their lectures. The Wagner's current lantern slide projector, from 1914, was manufactured by \_\_\_\_\_

Now head up to the museum.

~OVER~

Answer questions 7 and 8 from information found on the poster by the front windows of the museum.

(Note: a temporary platform is installed at the top gallery level for planned restoration work)

7. The Wagner has a barrel-vaulted roof supported by a patented system of wood and iron trusses designed by Philadelphia-based bridge builders Stone, Quigley and Burton. How many trusses support the roof? \_\_\_\_\_

8. To maximize light, the center of the museum was designed to be open to the roof and is ringed with two galleries that provide storage and work space for the curators and librarian. Additional light came from how many skylights? \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the remaining questions from the museum case indicated in each question.

9. Geology was the first course taught by William Wagner in the new building. In his lecture on Mineral and Thermal Springs, he used Calcareous Tufa and this incredible preserved specimen (**Case 44A, Drawer 4**) \_\_\_\_\_ as examples of the effect of calcium carbonate deposits from the springs.

10. William Wagner also taught a course in Mineralogy in 1865. He devoted two full lectures to the topic of Crystal Forms and used wooden models to illustrate the lectures. What are the six crystal forms presented in **Case 40B**? \_\_\_\_\_

11. William Wagner used his favorite specimens to illustrate his lecture on rock crystals. This purplish violet form of Quartz gets its color from iron impurities. Some of Wagner's most beautiful specimens of this crystal came from Brazil. Six are presented in **Case 33B**. \_\_\_\_\_

12. With a new home for the Institute, there was more space for specimens, and William Wagner continued to build his collections for the rest of his life. In 1869, he purchased an important collection of specimens from the famous fossil site in Lyme Regis, England, including these wall mounted specimens in **Case 65**. \_\_\_\_\_

13. Joseph Leidy penned Cretaceous Reptiles of the United States in 1865. This book described the first sauropod discovered in the United States, which Leidy named *Astrodon johnstoni*. The Wagner has sauropod bones in our collection as well, in the **far SW corner** of the museum. Though they are *Camarasaurus* bones they are labeled as \_\_\_\_\_ bones.

14. In 1865, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated and succeeded as President by Andrew Johnson. It is said that when Johnson discovered a family of these tiny, hole-in-the-wall-dwelling creatures in his room at the White House, he cared for them as pets. (**Case 73**) \_\_\_\_\_

15. In our museum there is a microscope that belonged to Joseph Leidy. The company that manufactured the microscope was founded by three men and had been called Smith, Beck, and Beck. In 1865, however, James Smith retired, resulting in a name change to this, which is the name referenced on our label: (**Case 77**) \_\_\_\_\_

### Bonus Question

As you leave the Wagner today, go across the street and look back at the entrance. Above the entrance portico is a stone plaque that William Wagner had carved with the name of the Institute and the date of its incorporation. What is that date? \_\_\_\_\_

The answers to this scavenger hunt are available on our website.

[www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org](http://www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org)