



Museum Scavenger Hunt

GO TO The Exhibit Workshop (Across from the museum store)

A MECHANICAL ENGINEER

helps build and maintain all types of machines.

If you were a mechanical engineer, what type of machine would you want to build?

Did you know that the Exploratorium exhibits are all designed, prototyped, and built right here? Look around. Is something being built? A **mechanical engineer** helps design many of the machines used for building things. What types of machines do you see?



For Child: Imagine you can create your own exhibit. What would yours be about? What would it look like?



For Parent: Share a story about a time you built or made something. What tools did you use? How long did it take?

GO TO The Seeing Exhibit (1st floor)

How is it that we see? We interpret the world through our eyes, brain, and own subjectivity. Find the Capture a Moment in Time station. Pose with a family member and create cool shadows on the wall. **Optical engineers** helped design the lenses used to take your picture.



For Child: What are some of the reasons that we all see the world differently?



For Parent: Share a story about one of the most beautiful things that you have ever seen.

An **OPTICAL ENGINEER** designs parts of optical instruments such as lenses, microscopes, and telescopes.

If you were an optical engineer, what types of products that use lenses would you want to work on?

GO TO The World of Matter (2nd floor)

An **ELECTRICAL ENGINEER** designs, constructs, and maintains a wide variety of electrical systems and equipment.

If you were an electrical engineer, how could you make an appliance in your house solar powered?

When you bring an electric current and a magnet together, interesting things happen. Pretend you are an **electrical engineer** and at each electricity station, try to find the permanent magnets, the path of the electric currents, and the forces created by them.

? **For Child:** Think about all the things that use electricity in your house. How do you think those things get electricity in your house each day?

? **For Parent:** What is your favorite electrical appliance and why?

GO TO The Traits of Life (2nd floor)

Is it alive? Sometimes it's easy to tell that something is alive but hard to explain why. Pretend you are a **microbiologist** and explore all the stations to try and answer that question. Make sure to stop at the Energy from Death Station and see the circle of life.

? **For Child:** What are some traits and characteristics of all living things?

? **For Parent:** What is the most interesting animal or insect that you have ever come across?

A **MICROBIOLOGIST** studies living organisms that are invisible to the naked eye, such as bacteria or fungi.

If you were a microbiologist, what would you want to see under a microscope?

GO TO The Catenary Arch (2nd floor)

An **ARCHITECT** designs all kinds of buildings like schools, skyscrapers, hospitals, and hotels.

If you were an architect, what would you want to design and build?

Why do some structures fall and why do some remain strong? Pretend you are an **architect** and discover some of the ways in which some objects stay put, or stay in one piece. What happens if you don't put the blocks in number order? Why?

? **For Child:** Think about the tallest building you have seen. Imagine you are designing your own skyscraper. What would you want it to look like? Where would you build it?

? **For Parent:** What is the most beautiful building that you have ever seen and what made it so beautiful?