Osaka area as well as surrounding region. Humans of that age most likely survived by hunting these animals throughout the vast wilderness that existed here in Osaka at the time.

Early Human Activity and Impact on the Environment
Approximately 3,000 years ago during the Final Jomon Period, early humans began the cultivation of rice, moving from a hunter-gatherer based existence to an agrarian lifestyle. Eventually, with the passage from the Yayoi to Kofun Periods, the inhabitants of the area formed large communities and developed extensive paddy fields for rice cultivation. How did this activity affect the environment, and how did the environment respond?

Changies of Osaka through geographical maps.

1st Exhibition room - The Natural World Around Us-
What kind of environment are you living in now?
- An urban environment greatly modified by man. A rural environment shaped by the activity of both humans and a variety of plants and animals. A pristine environment untouched by human hands. The environment around us can be roughly divided into these three stages. While long and extensive human activity has significantly transformed the natural world, there are many creatures in nature that have adapted to the new environment and continue to thrive. Let us take a look at what kind creatures exist in the diverse environments of the Osaka area.

1. Invaders - Invasion by exotic plants and animals - Alien animals introduced with logs; Seeds mixed with imported soybean 2. Urban nature 2A Wildlife in a park - Lifecycle of cicada; Brown-eared Bulbul, seasonal change of food-habit 2B Urban nature- Household insects; Medical insects around the house; Urban insects 3. Rural nature - Weeds and insects; Irrigation pond and the neighboring nature; Bamboo thicket 4. Nature of country forest (diorama) 5. Virgin forest of ancient Osaka (diorama) 6. Wild mammals of Osaka 7. Insects in the forests of Osaka - Insects of the evergreen oak forest, the deciduous oak forest, the pine forest, and the beech forest; Insects which have disappeared from Osaka 8. Foods of prehistoric man in Osaka 8A. Edible wild plants in J ohmon age - Cultivated plants 8B. The shell mound of Marunomiya archaeological site 9. Riverbed nature of the Yodogawa - Fishes of riverside pools "Wando"; Animals in reed bed 10. Life in Osaka Bay 10A. Water quality of Osaka Bay as indicated by barnacles 10B. Fishes commenting on the Osaka Bay 10C. Tidal flat in Osaka Bay (diorama)

2nd Exhibition room - History of the earth and life -
The Earth was formed approximately 4.5 billion years ago, and life appeared on the Earth about 3.8 billion years ago. Over the long history of our planet, it underwent many great changes, including continental drifts and changes in sea level, and the system of the Earth has developed. Life has evolved in close connection with the Earth's history, and over this time a vast array of species have thrived as well as become extinct. Then the age of humans arrived. This exhibit begins from the formation of the Osaka Plain, and then traces back in time, the history of the islands of Japan, and the Earth, as well as the history of life itself.

11. History of Osaka Plain in the last 20,000 years 11A. Fossil whales under the city 11B. History of Osaka Plain in the last 20,000 years 12. The Great Ice Age - Marshy spring flowers in the glacial age 13. The Quaternary Period 13A. The age of man - The Nogiri-ko Palaeolithic Culture; Palaeolithic tools of Kinki district 13B. The glacial age - Vegetation during the last glacial maximum 13C. The interglacial age and the ancient sea of Uemachi-Terrace 14. The Osaka Group 15. The age of mammals 15A. Tertiary flora - Plant fossils from the J japane Tertiary sediments 15B. Aspects of the Miocene Inland Sea - Mollusks of the Miocene Inland Sea 15C. Nijo-san - Miocene volcano at the east of Osaka 15D. The age of mammals - The evolution of horse; Desmostylus; Eostegodon, etc. 16. Late Cretaceous fossils from the Izumi Mountains of Osaka 17. The age of dinosaurs and ammonites 17A. Aspects of the Mesozoic sea - Ammonites, their phylogeny, physiques, mode of life; Mesozoic sea animals 17B. Mesozoic land plants 17C. Dinosaurs and allied animals 18. Aspects of the Palaeozoic sea and forest 18A. Inhabitants of the Palaeozoic forest - Palaeozoic plants and amphibians 18B. Mammal-like reptiles 18C. Inhabitants of the Palaeozoic sea - The oldest fossil from J apan; Precambrian fossils, Trilobites, etc.
3rd Exhibition room - Evolution and the diversity of life -

The long history since the origin of life about 3.8 billion years ago has increased the diversity in the global biota. This great diversity of body plan and shapes is the result of evolution. Diversity is the key to solving the mystery of evolution. Let us step into the world of biodiversity.

19. Speciation
Fish speciation in Lake Biwa-ko - Three kinds of crucian carps; Three kinds of catfish.
20. Dispersal
20A. Migration of butterflies - Oversea dispersal of great eggflies; Seasonal migration of chestnut tigers; Mass flight of rice skippers
20B. Dispersal of seed plants
21. Coevolution
21A. Interactions between flowers and insects - Pollination
21B. Mimesis and mimicry of insects
22. Evolutionary diversity of insects - Adaptive radiation in beetles; Insects in various environments
23. Zoogeography of insects
24. Sea as the cradle of life
24A. Coral reef inhabited by various organisms
24B. Intertidal life
24C. Living fossils - Silt shells, Nautilus, Horse-shoe crabs
24D. Deep-sea animals
24E. Animal phylogeny
24F. Marine huge animals and seaweed
25. Whence come we?
25A. Backboned animals
25B. Mammalian skeletons and their function - Marsupials; Herbivores; Carnivores; Omnivorous carnivores; Apes and monkeys; Teeth of mammals
25C. Human skeletons

26. Food plants and their homes
26A. Food plants from the Mediterranean Region
26B. Food plants from the Savannah
26C. Food plants from Southeast Asia
26D. Food plants from China and Japan
26E. Food plants from the New World
27. Forest and man
Large wooden buildings in Japan; Plantation of conifer; Use of hard wood; Increased timber import; Conservation of forest

Gallery
Meteorite
Fossils from the Upper Cretaceous Izumi Group
Variety of Minerals
Shells of Biwa-ko and Yodo-gawa
Fauna and flora of Osaka Bay
Timber of Douglas-fir

Entrance Porch Exhibition
Fin whale stranded at Osaka Bay (29m in length)

Special Exhibition
We have variety of exhibition about natural history, every year. Usually held at the “Nature Hall” on the 2nd floor of Information Center. Extra fee required. In detail, see website.

Information Counter
Available at Naumann Hall in the main building and Information Center (1st floor).

Floor Plan of Main Building

ACTIVITIES
Educational Activities
We have lots of outdoor activities, such as nature hiking, botanic tour and so on. Please ask at the Information counter.

4th Exhibition room - The Gifts from Nature -

Humans of the early age, lived in seeking out edible plants among wild flora, and then tried to cultivate them. Humans started to have permanent fields and settlements, and production of crops had stabilized, leading the civilization. Diverse cultures has developed we now can see on our dining tables many kinds of vegetables and fruits originated from all around the world, that have been selectively improved by humans in long history. Nature has provided us with many other gifts besides that of food. Let’s take a look at the gifts that nature has bestowed upon us in our daily life.

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