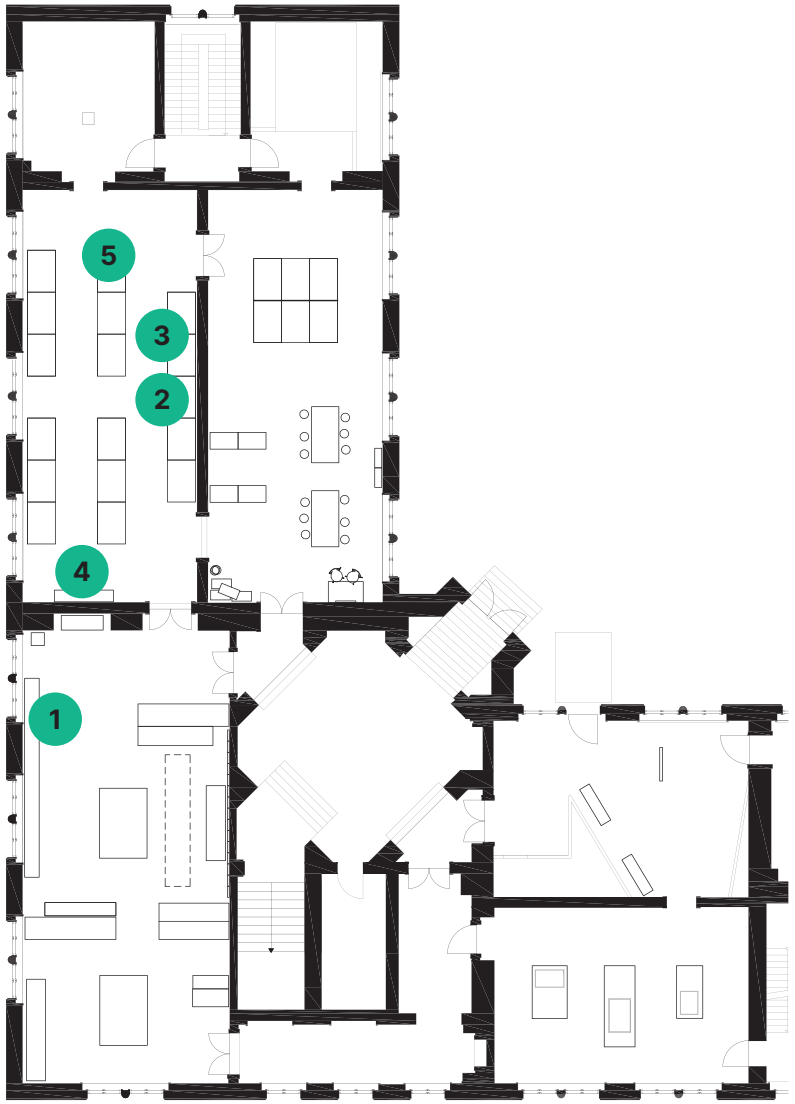

Exhibition floor plan

The great discoveries

The purpose of natural science is to discover new knowledge about our planet. In the exhibition, you can find many examples of objects that have paved the way for new insights into the connections within nature.

DENMARK
NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

1

From the deep sea

The deepest parts of the world's oceans enable life forms we still don't know much about, but deep-sea expeditions over the last hundred years have found life adapted to the extreme conditions of the depths. Many deep-sea fish, for example, can emit light. The devilish leftvent anglerfish catches its prey with light like a fishing hook. It has glowing antennas that lure prey in front of its mouth.

2

Hafnium – a new element

When Niels Bohr gave his Nobel Prize acceptance speech in 1922, he revealed that his fellow researchers had discovered a completely new element. The element was found in two pieces of zirconium mineral, which are still in the museum's collection. The discovery was made at the institute later named the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, and the element was named after the Latin name for Copenhagen: Hafnium. Hafnium is used in alloys for electrodes and in control rods for nuclear reactors to name a few.

3

Darwin and his barnacles

Charles Darwin is known for the theory of evolution, where he showed that species evolve slowly and gradually into new species. But before publishing his groundbreaking book 'On the Origin of Species' in 1859, he had studied species like earthworms, pigeons, and barnacles for decades. Barnacles are a type of crustacean, and Darwin wrote no less than four major works on them. Darwin's description of the theory of evolution was not a sudden idea but was based on decades of detailed exploration of species' variations and development.

4

Extreme microlife

Research into Earth's microscopic life is a source of new knowledge that changes our view of nature and our own lives. Tardigrades are a type of microscopic animal that challenge our understanding of what living beings can endure. They can survive freezing, dehydration, and even being sent into space without harm. This knowledge can be applied in many contexts. For example, the tardigrades' ability to survive extreme cold can inspire research into how human donor organs for transplantation can be stored and used for longer periods.

5

Intoxicated Artic animals

The museum's collection includes Arctic predators gathered over centuries, particularly falcons and polar bears. Through systematic analysis and comparison of these many specimens, scientists can trace the development of harmful environmental toxins in the Arctic, with mercury being especially prevalent. Knowing the location, year, and mercury content of each animal in the collection allows researchers to study how and from where environmental toxins spread and get absorbed in nature. This research can help moderate the damage to the environment and animal species.