



Albany's Mouse's museum from A-Z

Albany Mouse is missing welcoming our visitors to the museum while it is closed.

So Albany has decided that he is going to share his favourite museum objects from A-Z, along with a drawing for grownups to print at home for their little ones to colour in. Maybe, when we reopen you could bring your picture to the museum to help you to find the real object.
#MuseumFromHome

A is for Albany!

Did you know Albany Mouse is named after Albany Hancock who, along with his brother John, founded the Great North Museum: Hancock?



They collected many wonderful objects to go in the museum for people to enjoy visiting. We hope you enjoy colouring them in. Can you find Albany Mouse in the drawing?

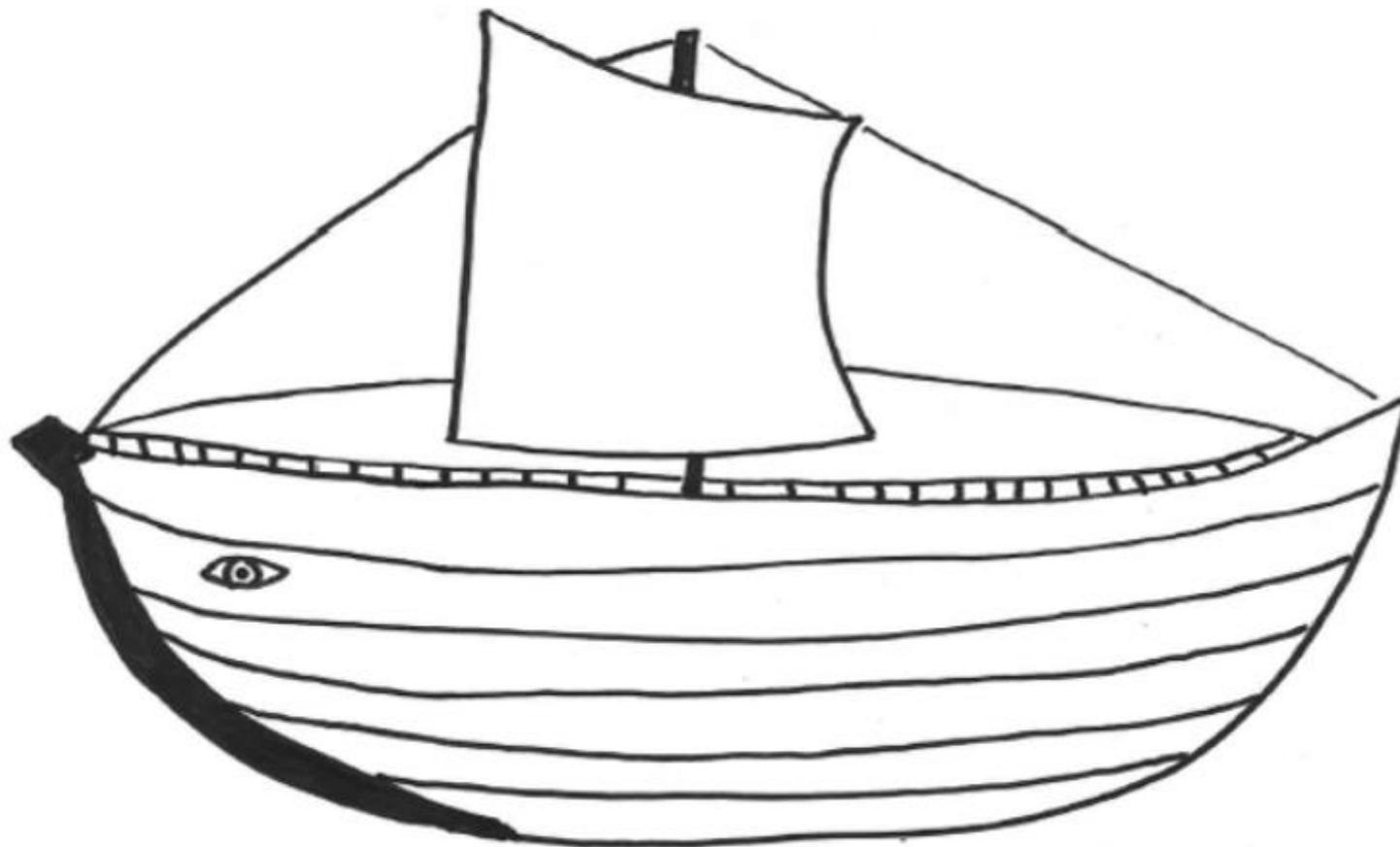
B is for Boat!

Albany Mouse loves this model of a Greek Merchant Ship in our Shefton gallery. Can you spot the eye on the ship? Some people think the Ancient Greeks carved eyes on ships to bring good luck and guidance while at sea.



Maybe once you've coloured in Albany's drawing you could sing one of Albany's favourite songs 'Row, Row, your Boat'. Or maybe you could investigate, with things around your house, what you can find that floats boat?

You can find the Ancient Greek boat model in our Shefton gallery.



C is for Crocodile!

You can find our Crocodile in our Living Planet gallery on the ground floor of the museum. We hope you enjoy colouring him in.

When we reopen why not bring along your colouring to help you to find our real Crocodile in the museum. Or maybe you could have a go at one of Albany's favourite messy crocodile crafts at home - turning your handprints into snappy crocodiles.



You can find a crocodile in our Living Planet gallery.





D is for Dodo!

Although not real (there are no real ones!) our dodo is one of Albany Mouse's favourite animals to look at in the museum.

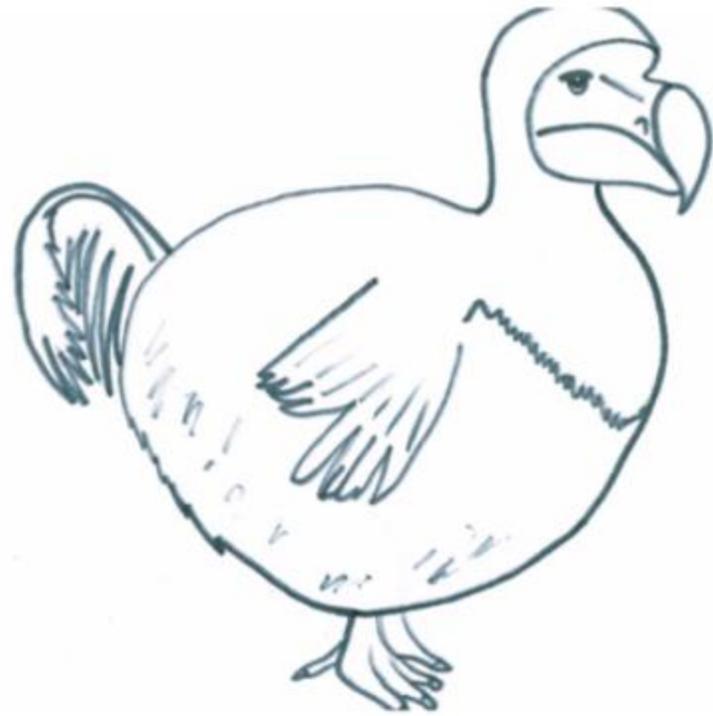
Did you know that even though dodos are extinct, you can still see some of their relatives? They are related to pigeons! Once you've coloured in your dodo maybe you can do a dodo relative bird watch - how many pigeons can you spot?

And if you like bird watching maybe you could take part in the RSPB's Breakfast Birdwatch, on Twitter, weekdays between 8-9am: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/> Albany also loves the RSPB's 'Animal Poop' game which you can find here: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/.../for-.../big-wild-sleepout/whose-poo/>.

It's true you can learn lots about animals by looking at their poo. In the museum, Albany likes to look at dino poo when learning about dinosaurs!



You can find a Dodo in our Living Planet gallery.



E is for E is for Egyptian Mummy!

We are very lucky because we have two real Ancient Egyptian mummies in the museum. They are called Bakt-en-hor and Irtyru.

Albany Mouse loves looking at the scarab beetle painted on the head of Bakt-en-hor's sarcophagus. It was believed that it would bring her luck in the afterlife. Can you spot it?

Maybe once you've coloured in your Egyptian mummy you could see if you can find some beetles or other creepy crawlies in your garden or while on a little walk.



You can find our Egyptian mummies in our Ancient Egyptian gallery.



Illustrated by Katie Chappell

F is for Fox!

Foxes come out at night, when it is dark. Albany Mouse loves learning about night time animals in the museum. Can you think of any others?

Once you've coloured in your fox, maybe you could read one of Albany's favourite story's, 'The Gruffalo'. Maybe you will find a fox in the story!





You can find a fox in our Natural Northumbria gallery.



G is for Giraffe!

Albany Mouse loves looking at our giraffe, he cannot believe how tall he is! Giraffes have very, very long necks so they can eat the juicy leaves from the top of trees.



After you have coloured in your giraffe, can you find something smaller than you (like Albany Mouse) or taller than you (like the giraffe) in your home? And can you spot some leafy trees out your window or while on a walk, how many can you count? Do you think a giraffe would enjoy munching on them for lunch?



You can find a giraffe in our Living Planet gallery.



H is for Helmet!

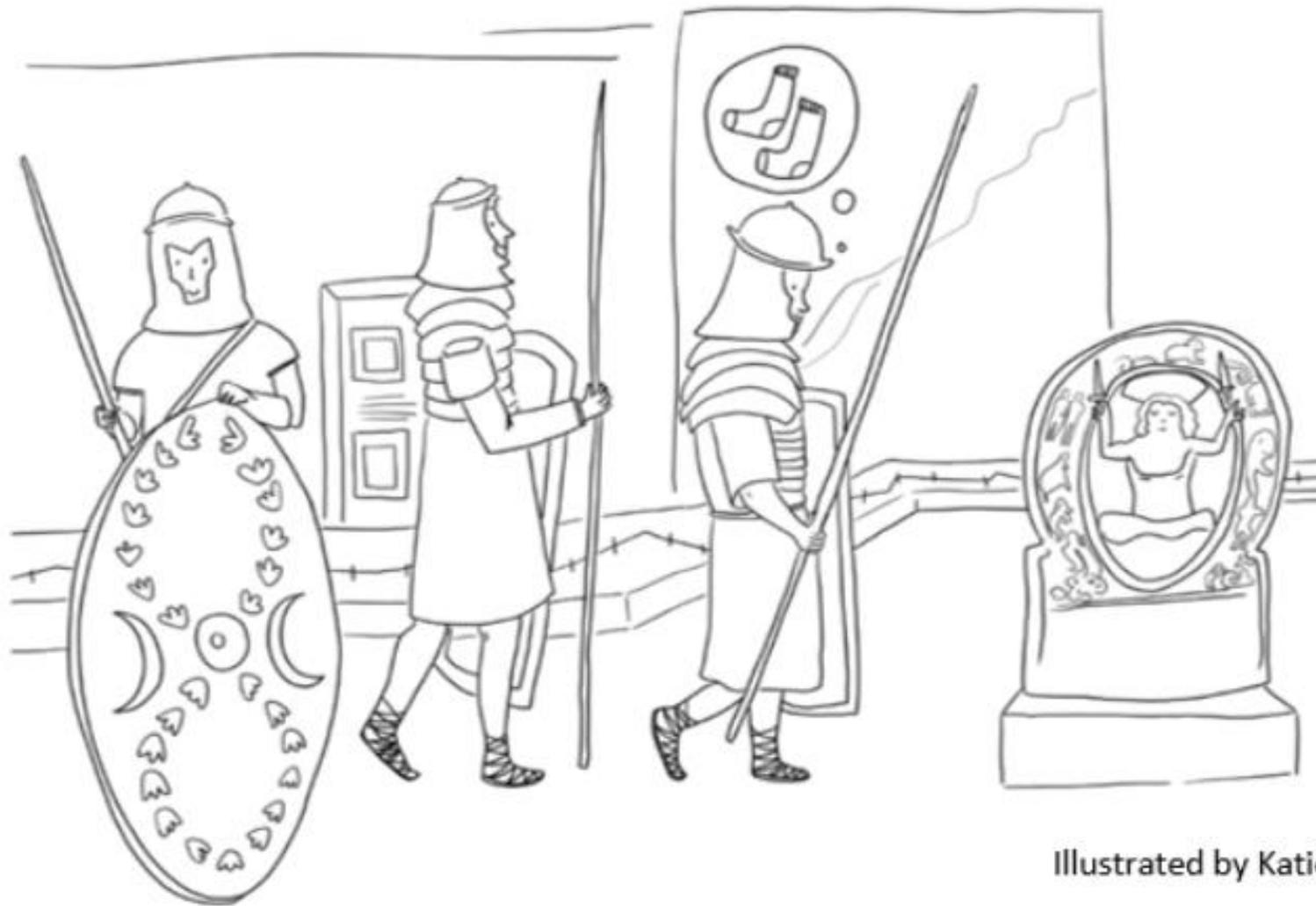
Albany Mouse loves looking at the armour in the museum galleries. He especially loves the helmets.

Albany's favourite is the Greek Hoplite helmet which has a lovely red crest made from horse hair. Our Roman helmets in the Hadrian's Wall gallery look a bit different.



Did you know the romans brought rabbits to England? Without the romans we would have no wild rabbits! Maybe you could add a rabbit to your colouring in and sing one of Albany's favourite rabbit songs - 'Little Peter Rabbit'

Roman soldiers wearing their armour. Can be found in the Hadrian's Wall gallery.



Illustrated by Katie Chappell





I is for Ichthyosaur!

In the museum we have a large Ichthyosaur fossil (a marine reptile which was alive at the time of the dinosaurs) which was found in Whitby in 1838.

We also have a model which Albany Mouse finds very helpful when he tries to imagine what an Ichthyosaur, swimming around in the sea, would have looked like!

Albany loves to learn new words in the museum and Ichthyosaur is one of his favourites! What is your favourite word or what is your favourite under the sea animal?

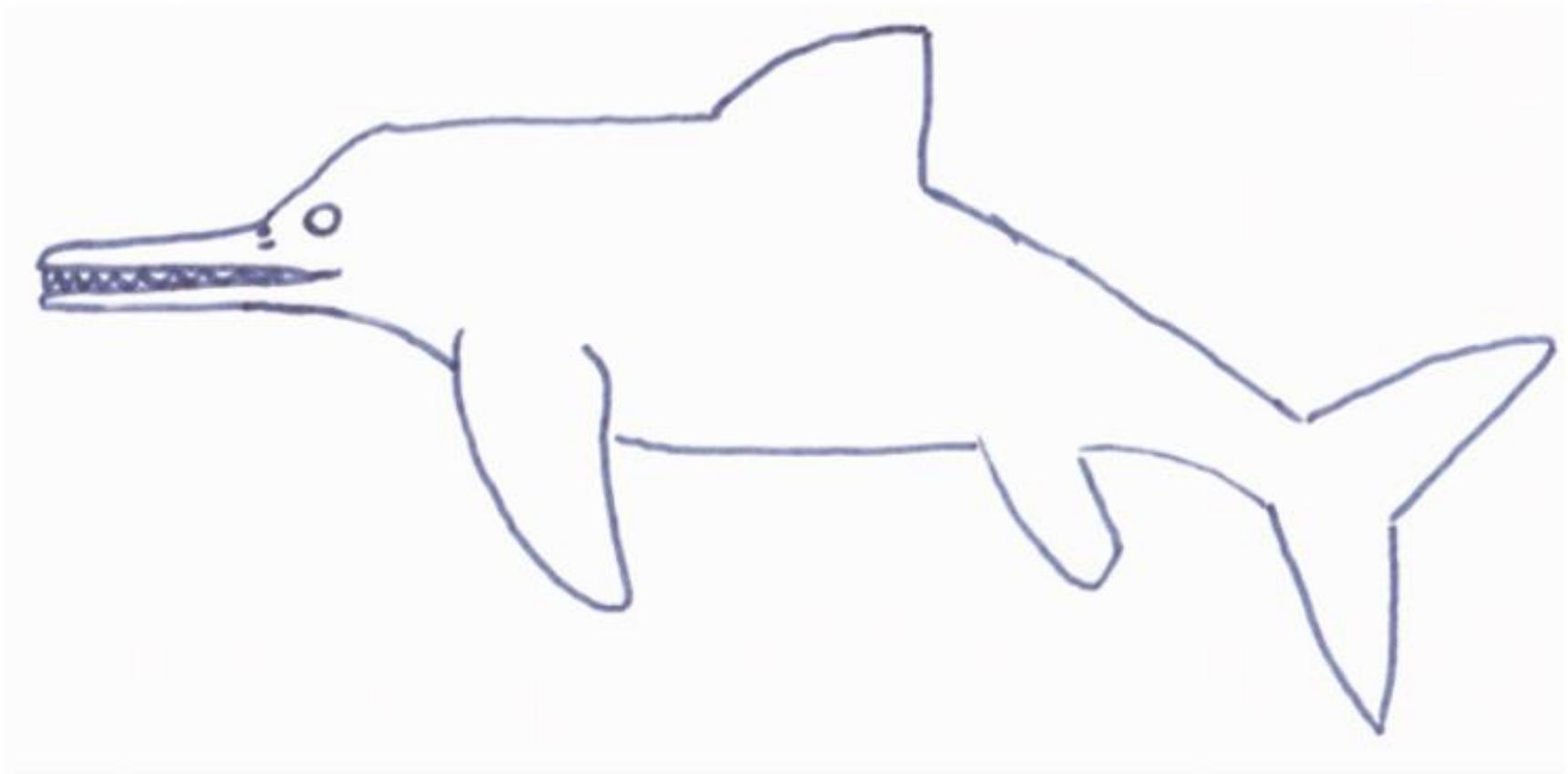
If, like Albany, your little one likes learning new words maybe you could visit our friends Small Talk, at the National Literacy Trust, website where they share lots of lovely ideas of how you can support word learning: <https://small-talk.org.uk/>





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You can find an Ichthyosaur in our Fossil Stories gallery.



J is for Jewellery!

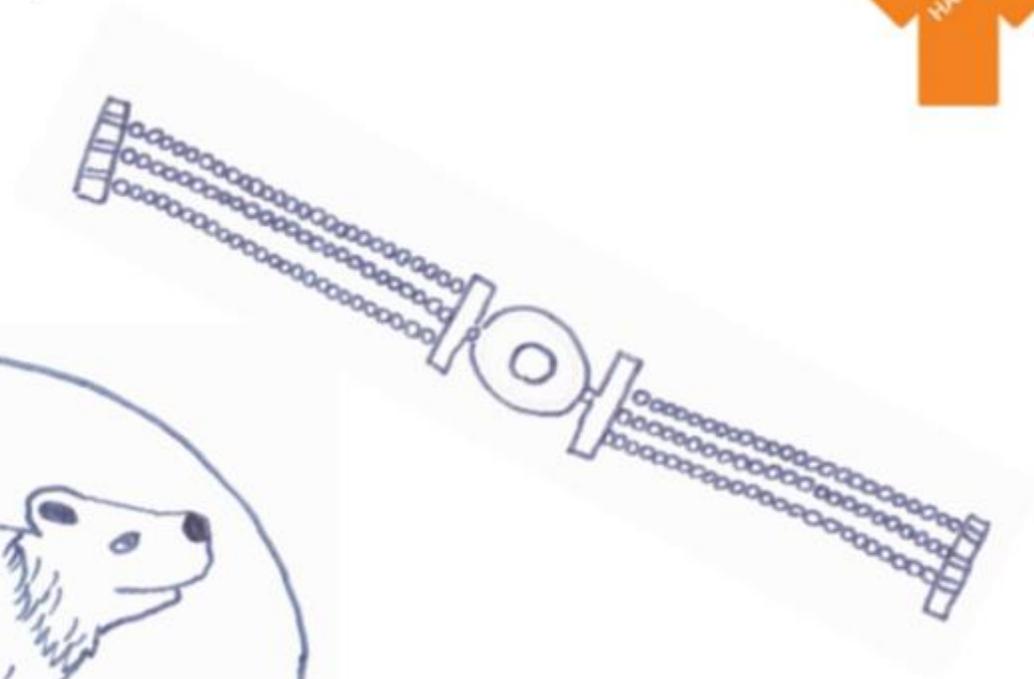
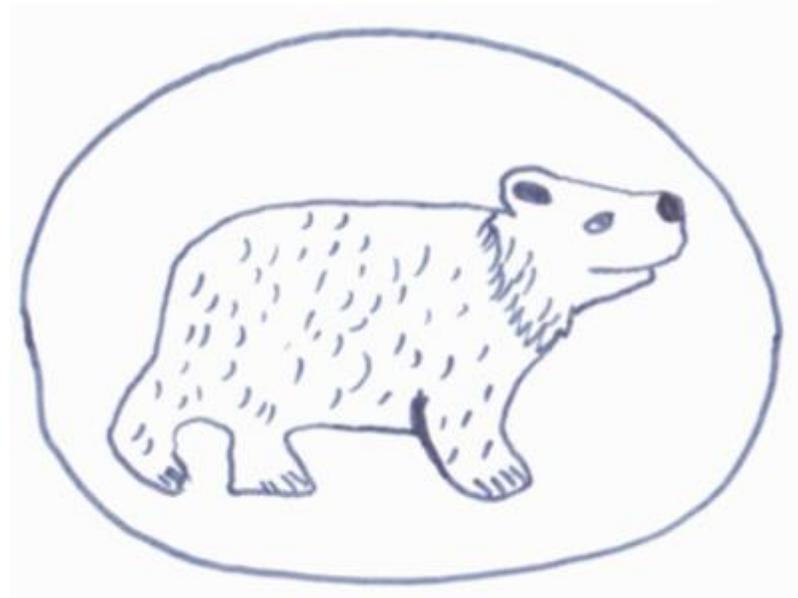
Albany Mouse loves looking at the beautiful, sparkly jewellery in the museum. His favourite is a roman bear brooch in our Hadrian's Wall gallery!

Some of Albany's favourite stories have bears in them, once you've coloured in, why don't you read one? Albany suggests 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' or 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Or maybe you could have a teddy bear picnic!





You can find beautiful roman jewellery and a bear brooch in our Hadrian's Wall gallery.



K is for Kingfisher!

Albany Mouse loves looking at our kingfisher in the museum, he is such a pretty colour! What colour is he, do you know? Albany likes to think that he is called a 'kingfisher' because he is so good at fishing for tasty fish to eat for his lunch!



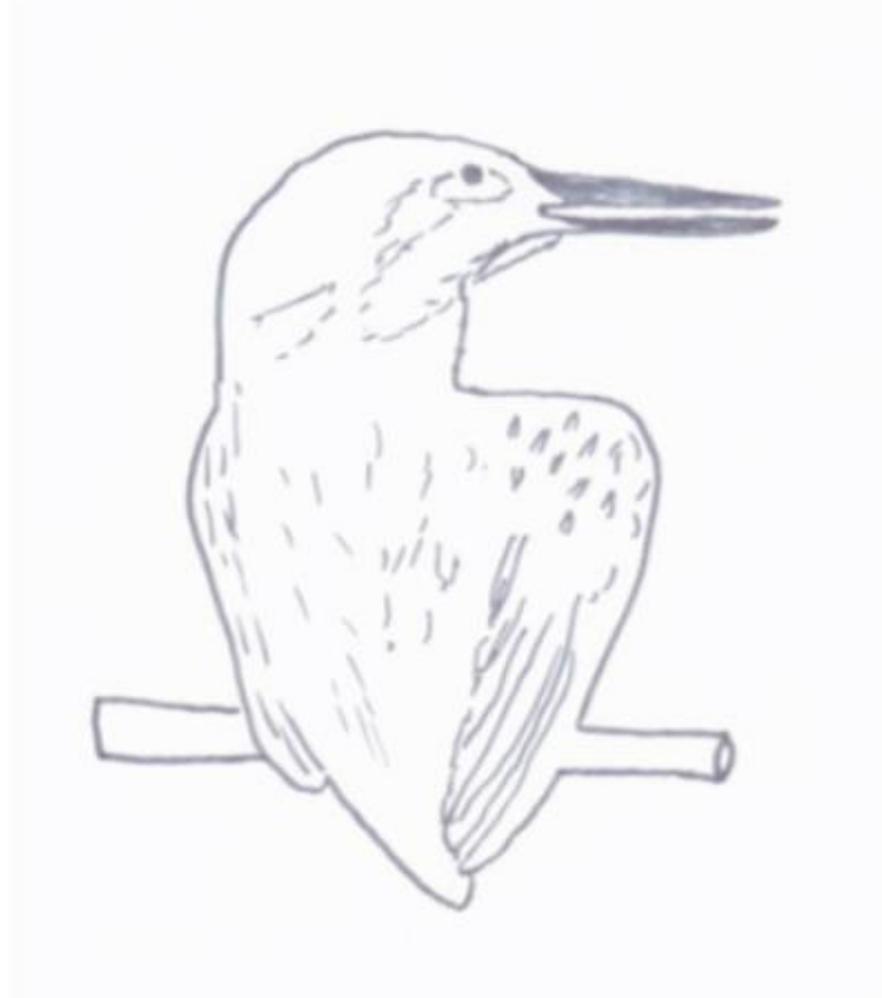
Maybe once you have coloured him in you could have some fun with colours, you could arrange your toys or other things around your home into their different colours, what is your favourite colour?

Or maybe you could draw a rainbow full of all the different colours and put it on your window to make everyone smile!



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You can find a kingfisher in our Natural Northumbria gallery on the first floor of the museum.



L is for Lion!

ROAR! Can you roar like a lion?



Albany Mouse loves admiring our lion in the museum. He has a very hairy mane and very sharp teeth. Can you think of any other animals with large teeth? What do you think a hungry lion would eat for dinner?

Once you have coloured in your lion maybe you could collect some leaves, from your garden or while on a walk, to paint and glue to add to your lions mane.



You can find a lion in our Living Planet gallery.



N is for Nudibranch!

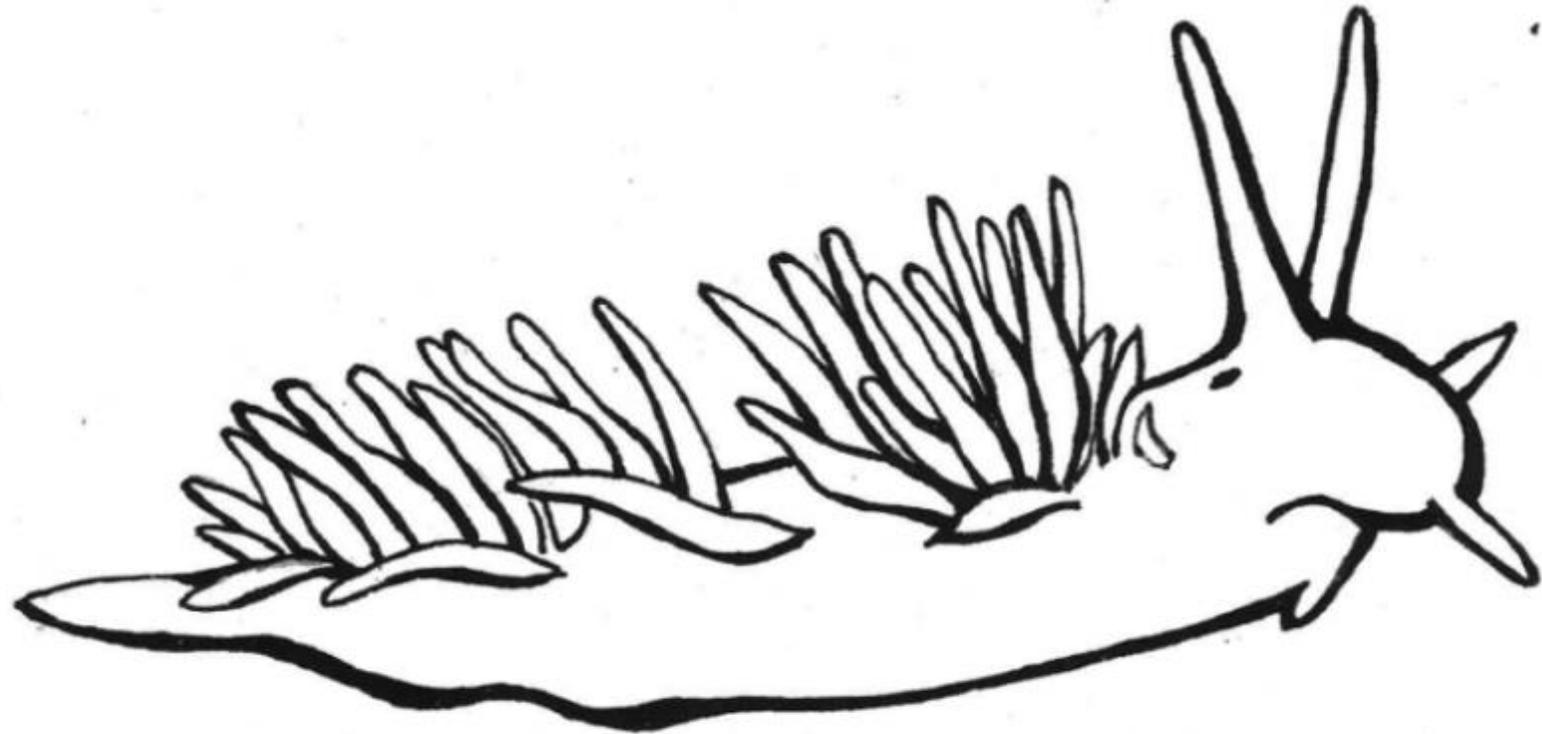
Albany Mouse is named after Albany Hancock, one of the two brothers who founded the museum.



Did you know that Albany Hancock researched nudibranchs', more commonly known as sea-slugs? Albany Mouse loves looking at Albany Hancock's drawings - they are really rather good!

Once you have coloured in your nudibranch maybe you could have a bug hunt, either in your garden or while on a walk. Can you find a garden slug? What colour do you think it will be? Perhaps, not as colourful as a nudibranch!

A nudibranch or sea-slug. Albany Hancock, one of the Hancock brothers who founded the museum, spent a lot of his time studying nudibranchs. You can see some of his original drawings in our Hancock library archive.



O is for Owl!

Albany Mouse loves to count all the owls in the museum. We have quite a few! When the museum reopens maybe you could have a go at counting all the owls too!



Did you know owls are night time animals and wake when the stars are in the sky. Once you have coloured in your owl maybe you could sing one of Albany's favourite night time songs, 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star', and when it gets dark you could see how many stars you can count in the sky! Or if you like messy crafts why don't you have a go at turning your handprint into a special owl picture.



You can find a tawny owl in our Natural Northumbria gallery on the first floor of the museum.



P is for Polar Bear!

Albany Mouse loves admiring our polar bear. Did you know he is named Eric? He is named after Eric Morton, the museum taxidermist, who cleaned and repaired him in the 1980's!

Polar bears are white to blend in with the snow so they cannot easily be seen. But white is not very fun for colouring in, so why don't you colour in your polar bear the colour of the northern lights instead?

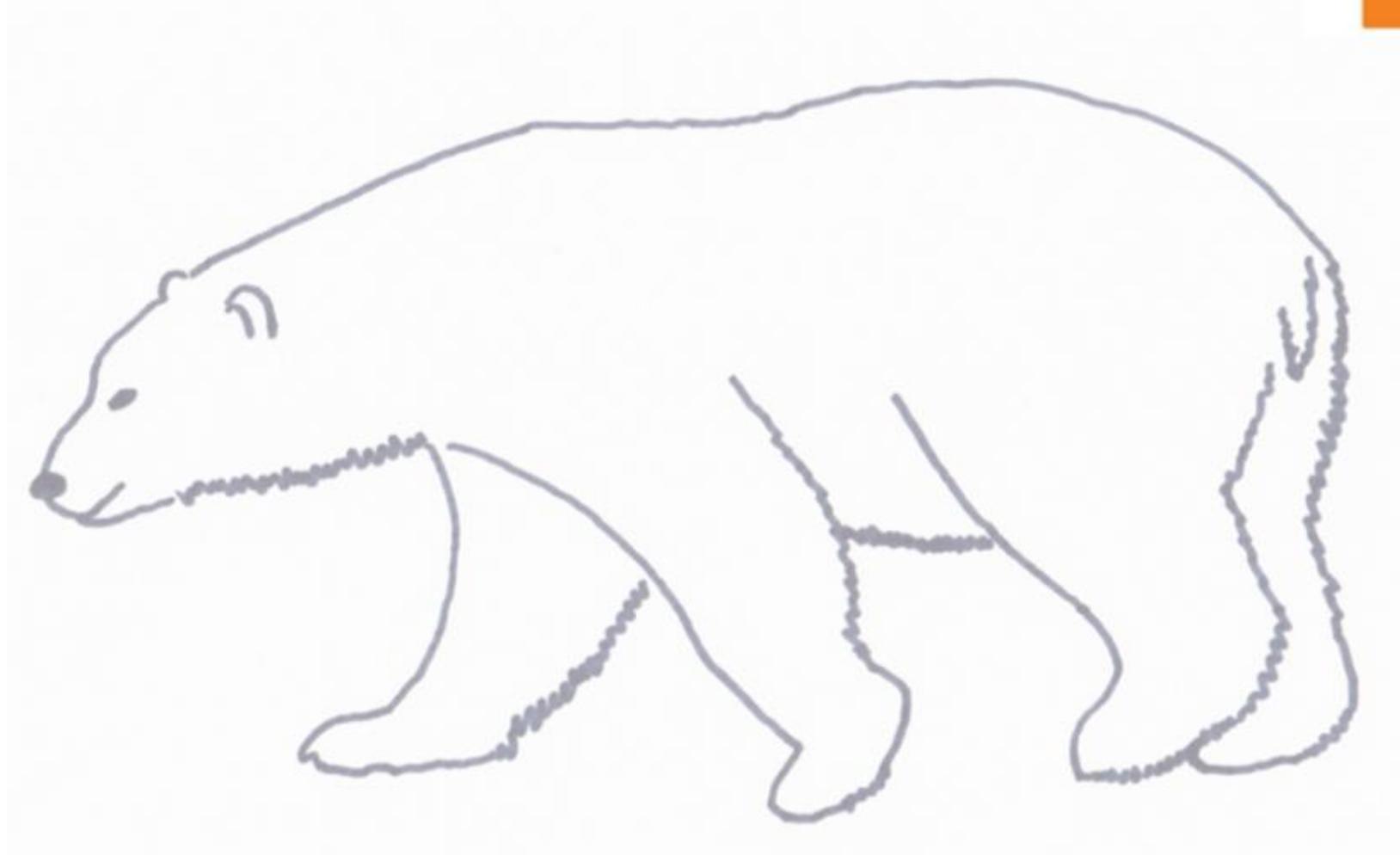
The northern lights, or polar lights, are a natural light display in the night sky and are very pretty to watch. You can watch a video of the northern lights here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3XyW_IHZ6s



Once you have coloured in your colourful polar bear you could have a go at some water and ice play. Try turning water into ice cubes and then get them to melt!

You can find a Polar Bear in our 'Living Planet' gallery.



Q is for Quartz!

Albany Mouse loves looking at all the beautiful and shiny crystals and gems in the museum. He loves the way they sparkle. Quartz is his favourite!



Once you have coloured in your crystals and gems picture maybe you could go on a rock hunt in your garden or while on a walk. How many rocks can you find? Do they sparkle? Maybe you could paint rock to make it even prettier!



You can find quartz and other precious things in our Crystals and Gems gallery.



Illustrated by Katie Chappell

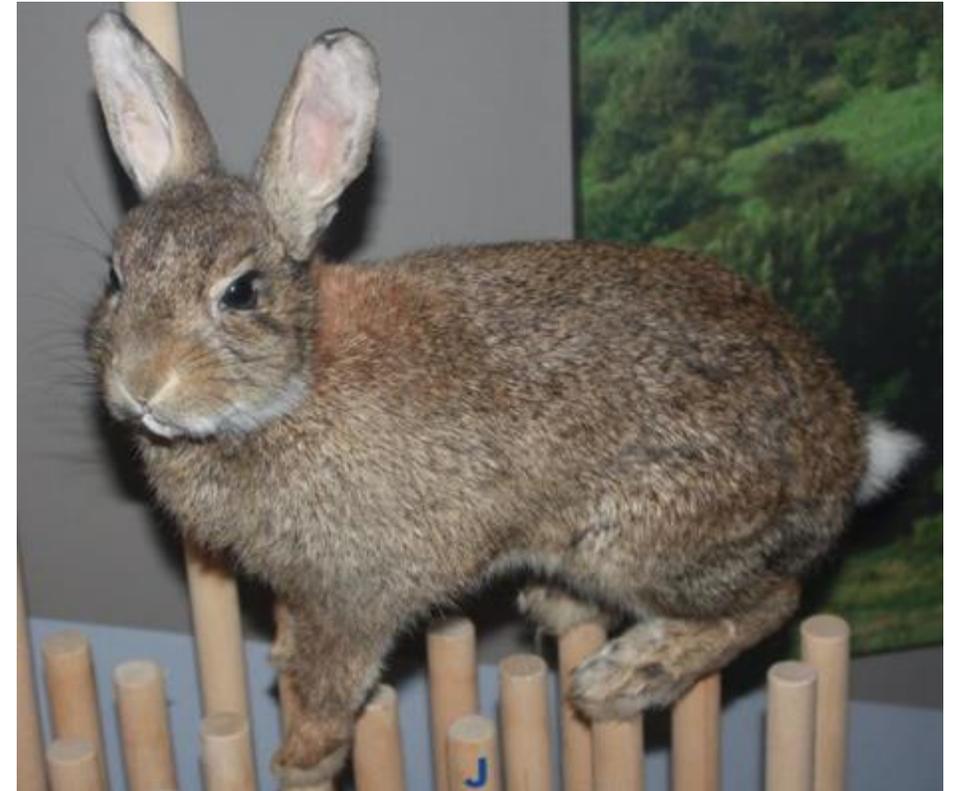


R is for Rabbit!

Albany Mouse loves looking at the rabbits in the museum. Did you know rabbits are good at hopping, can you hop like a rabbit?

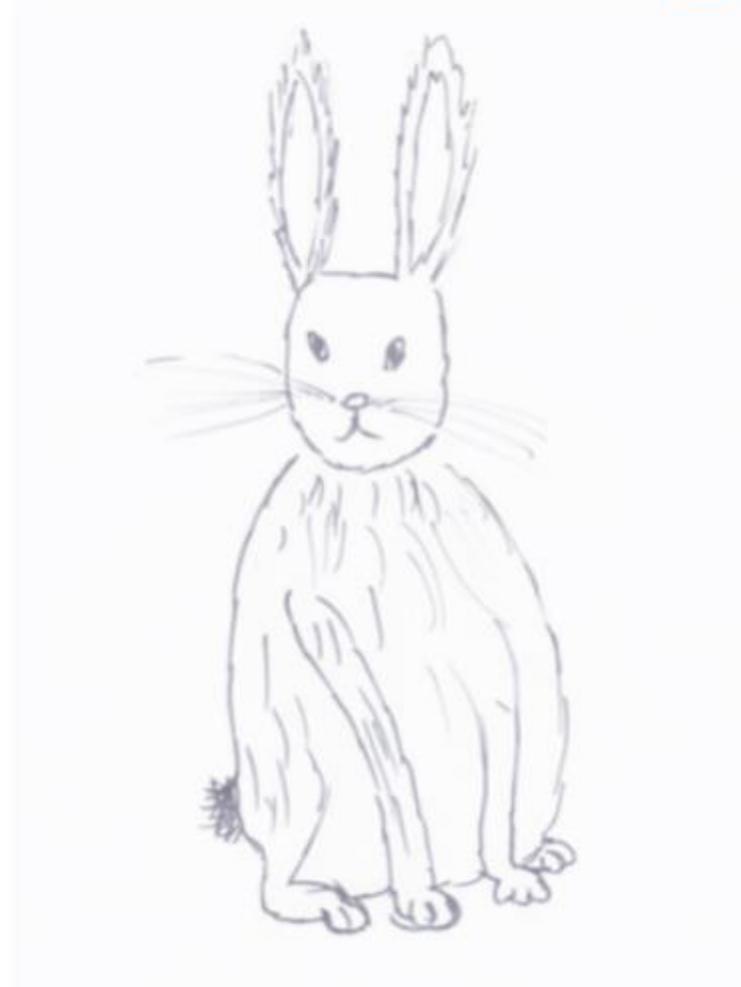
After you have coloured in maybe you could read a story about a rabbit.

Albany loves 'Guess how much I love you' and 'Peter Rabbit'. Or you could turn your handprint into a rabbit paint print!





You can find a rabbit in our Natural Northumbria gallery on the first floor of the museum.





S is for Samurai!

Albany Mouse loves looking at the Samurai armour in the 'World Cultures' gallery! He would love to try on a Samurai outfit. Once you have coloured in, maybe you could dress up! What would you like to dress as?

If any grownups would like to know more about Samurai armour Albany's friend Jo, our assistant keeper, has written an interesting blog. Maybe you could have a read!
<https://blog.twmuseums.org.uk/the-return-of-the-samurai/>





Japanese Samurai
Warrior.
Can be found in the
World Cultures Gallery.

Illustrated by
Katie Chappell





T is for T-Rex!

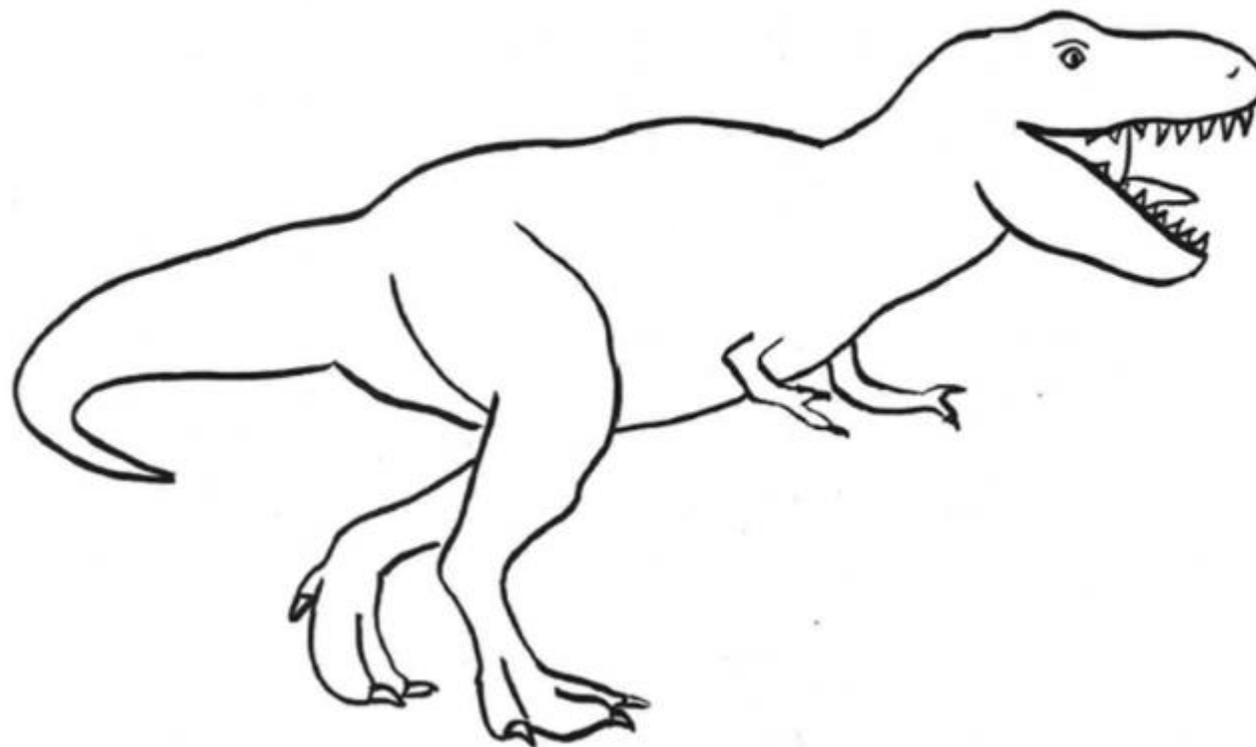
Albany Mouse loves dinosaurs! His favourite is our T-rex, Big Mike. Can you ROAR like a dinosaur and STOMP your feet like a big t-rex? What is your favourite dinosaur?

Did you know that some dinosaurs ate leaves and others ate meat? Big Mike would have eaten meat. Can you think of a plant eating dinosaur?

After you have coloured in, maybe you could collect some leaves and other herbivore dino food while on a walk or in your garden. You could even turn your dino food into a fun collage!



You can find our t-rex, Big Mike in our Fossil Stories gallery.





U is for (sea) Urchin!

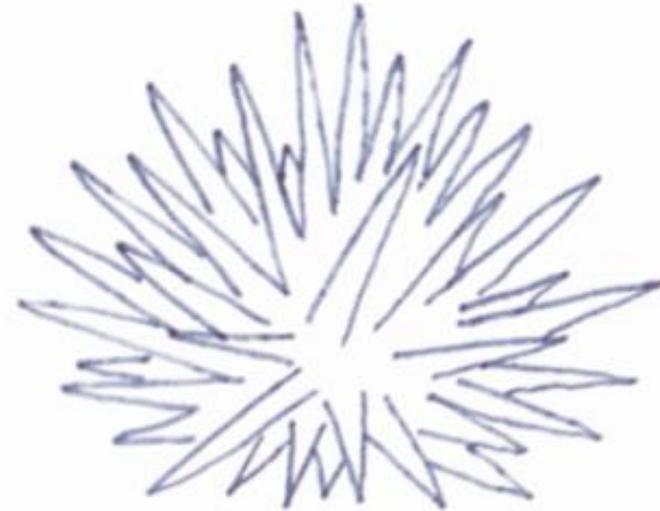
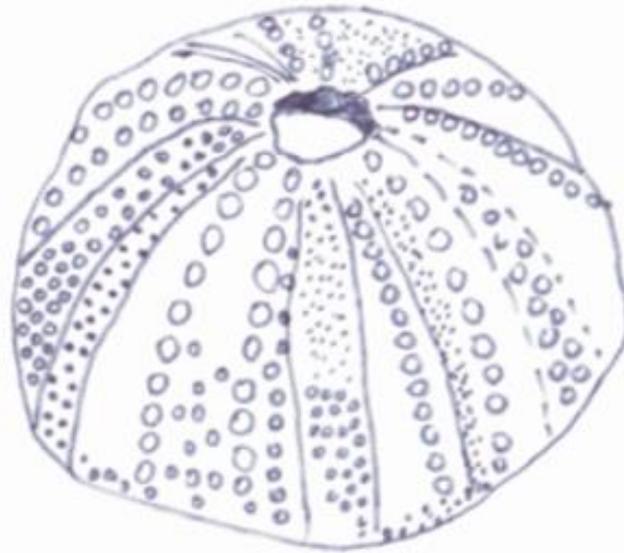
Albany Mouse loves learning about creatures that live under the sea. His favourite in the museum is the Japanese Spider Crab. Next time you visit, after we reopen, see if you can spot it! Do you know any other creatures that live in the sea?

Have you ever visited the Hancock library on the second floor of the museum? There are lots of beautifully illustrated reference books. Albany loves looking at them to learn about new creatures. Recently Albany read about sea urchins. After you have coloured in, maybe you could have a go at painting with water to make a special spiky sea urchin picture.





You can see beautiful images of Sea Urchins in reference books in the Hancock library on the second floor of the museum.





V is for Vase!

Albany Mouse loves admiring all the vases in the museum. We have quite a few ancient greek ones in our Shefton gallery. Some are even bigger than Albany! Can you stretch up really big, as tall as you can? Next time you visit the museum, after we reopen, look out for the really big vase!

Did you know that lots of ancient greek vases tell stories? Look at the pictures on the vase, what do you think is happening?

Today, people mainly put flowers in vases, but the greeks would use them to store food and drink in. After you have coloured in, while on a walk or in your garden, maybe you could make a daisy chain!





Ancient Greek vases and statues. Can be found in the Shefton gallery.



Illustrated by Katie Chappell



W is for Wand!

Albany Mouse loves admiring the ancient Egyptian objects in the museum. He particularly likes this apotropaic wand, he thinks it is shaped a little like a boomerang! Carved with images of strange mythical creatures the wand was used to ward off evil!

After you have coloured in maybe you could get crafty and make your own wand. You could even make a boomerang and test it out in your garden or while on a walk. Or you could find a magical story to read.

X is for Xenacanthus!

Albany Mouse loves learning about past creatures in the museum. He particularly likes the name Xenacanthus - it is a little unusual!

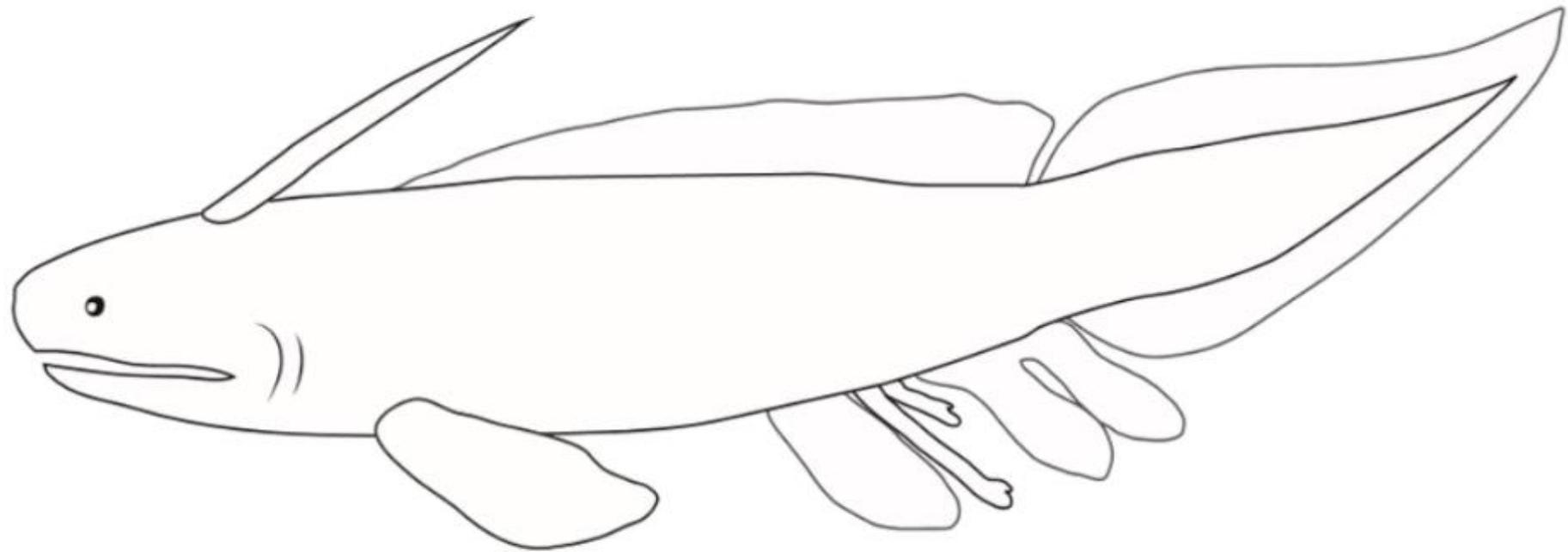
Xenacanthus was a prehistoric shark. You can find a fossil from a Xenacanthus spine bone in the 'Fossils and Dinosaurs' gallery.

When the museum reopens, maybe you could see if you can find it - it is quite small! Afterwards, you could then see if you can find a modern day shark, with lots of teeth, in the 'Living Planet' gallery.

Once you have coloured in maybe you could add some other under the sea creatures to your picture. Or perhaps you could find a sea story to read - Albany Mouse really enjoys 'Barry the Fish with Fingers' and 'Tiddler the Story-Telling Fish'.



You can find a Xenacanthus spine bone fossil in the
'Fossils and Dinosaurs' gallery on the ground floor of the museum.



Y is for Yellowrattle!

Yellowrattle is a wildflower. In the middle of summer if you brush past yellowrattle you can hear their tiny seeds rattling in brown pods – this is where they get their name!

In the museum's Natural Northumbria gallery, you can see not only the many animals that live in Northumberland, but examples of native wildflowers and plants too, including yellowrattle!

Albany Mouse loves looking at flowers and all their beautiful colours. Today, while on a walk or in your garden, practise your counting by seeing how many yellow flowers you can find! After, have a go at drawing and colouring all the pretty flowers you found.

Maybe you could also have a go at creating your own rattle noise. Albany thinks some cereal or pasta in a small box might work quite nicely! #MuseumFromHome #FamilyFriendlyMuseum



John Dixon



Elaine Burnell



Z is for Zeus!

Albany Mouse found this letter tricky! Can you think of anything that begins with Z?

Good job that Albany remembered learning about Zeus in the Shefton gallery. Zeus was king of all the ancient Greek gods.

Once you have coloured in have a go at seeing if you can think of something for each letter of the alphabet!

Did Albany miss something from the museum in his A-Z that you really love? If so let him know!

