

Explore the Museum Like a Scientist!

Antlers

For Families and Groups with Young Visitors

These activities are designed to spark your curiosity and encourage you to think like a scientist. When scientists are curious they: **look closely, ask questions, compare, collect information, and test ideas.**

Antler Facts

Throughout the *Cabinet of Curiosities* exhibit there are lots of deer and moose antlers. *Can you find the Luck Chair?*

The Luck Chair is made up of pairs of dropped deer antlers. *Can you count how many antlers were needed to create this chair?*



Do all deer and moose grow antlers?

It is usually the male deer (buck) or moose (bull) that grows antlers.

What are antlers made of?

Antlers, which grow and are shed every year, are made of bone and grow right from the animal's skull. Horns, which look like antlers, are permanent and are made from a hair-like substance over a bony core. *Can you think of other animals that have antlers or horns?*

What do the antlers look like while they are growing?

Each year the antlers start growing as little "buds" on the buck's skull. As they grow to full size, the antlers are covered in "velvet" or a fuzzy coating. When the antlers have finished growing, the buck rubs them against a tree or shrub to scrape the dried velvet skin off in shreds, leaving just the bone.



When and how do bucks lose their antlers?

Toward the end of December to mid-February, the antlers become loosened around the base and just drop off.