

SCIENCE MUSEUM

GALLERY GUIDE



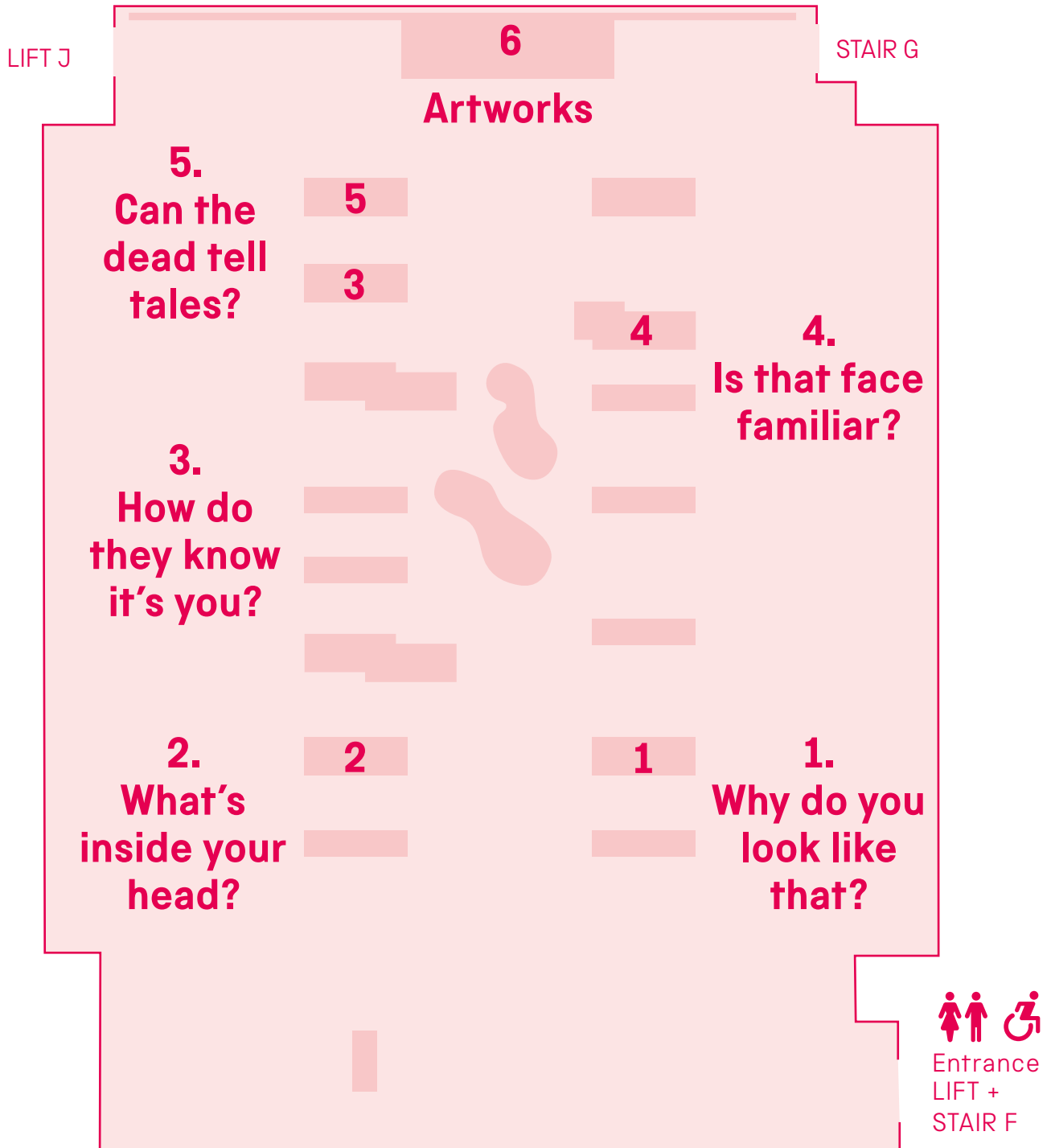
WHO AM I?

INFORMATION 	Age 7-11, 11-14	Topic HEALTH, MEDICINE, HUMAN IDENTITY
	Location LEVEL 1, SCIENCE MUSEUM, LONDON	

Who Am I? explores the science of who we are and what makes us special.

Why do you look like you? What makes us scared? Could we live for a thousand years?

The Who Am I? gallery explores these questions and more through interactive exhibits, artworks and over 100 intriguing objects.



PRINCIPAL FUNDER



1 Why do you look like that?

DNA is the molecule contained in our genes, and small differences in it make everyone unique – from their appearance to their health and life span. But technology, lifestyle and environment also shape our bodies. Discover how artificial eyes, tissue transplants and computer-assisted limbs may keep bodies functioning in the future.

Don't miss: Seven-toed cat, 1999

Similar genes govern the number of fingers and toes that both people and cats have. A change in just one type of gene can make extra digits develop.



2 What's inside your head?

Brains are thinking machines, creating memories, coordinating thoughts and actions, and helping us to navigate the world. Explore how studying brain cells and genes can tell us about how brains work and how memories are formed.

Don't miss: MRI helmet, c.2009

This cap detects radio signals from the brain during an MRI scan. The information it provides can be used to construct detailed pictures of the brain to understand how it works.



3 How do they know it's you?

The DNA in each of your cells identifies who you are, and only you. Discover how the ability to analyse and compare DNA is a powerful tool in tracing missing relatives and solving crimes.

Don't miss: Toothbrush used for DNA profiling, 2001

This toothbrush belonged to Alex Napier, who died in the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001. It was submitted for DNA profiling by his wife Nicky.



4 Is that face familiar?

Brains are programmed to remember thousands of faces. Explore how genes shape unique features of people's faces, and why scientists use brain scanning techniques to learn about how we recognise faces – and why sometimes we don't.

Don't miss: Our basic emotions, 2010

These tactile casts show six emotions thought to be universal. What triggers emotions and how we respond to them is personal. It depends on culture, past experiences and our genes.



5 Can the dead tell tales?

Ancient DNA preserved within bones is revealing more about the lives of our ancient ancestors. Scientists are investigating how this genetic legacy affects the health, identity and diversity of people living today.

Don't miss: Artistic model of Bleadon Man, 1997

The bones of Bleadon Man lay buried for nearly 2,000 years. Now, a medical artist has used them to reconstruct his face to show how he might have looked. Discover what studying his DNA revealed about his life and the connections to his descendants.

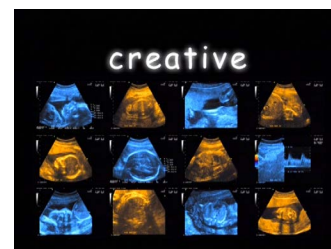


6 Artworks

Throughout *Who Am I?* there are many artworks which respond to big questions in science and society. Discover works by Antony Gormley, David Shrigley and Revital Cohen, among others.

Don't miss: 'effective, defective, creative' by Yinka Shonibare CBE RA, 2000

This projection of fetal ultrasound scans created by the British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare questions the impact of technology on how we value disability and difference within society.



Talk about...

As you explore the gallery, or back at home or at school, think about what qualities make you special. What interests you or surprises you about what you've seen in the gallery?

- What would it be like if everyone was the same?
- How are you different to your friends?
- Have you or has anyone you know been helped by medical technology?

Make the most of your visit

Throughout the gallery there are tactile touch objects with Braille interpretation. Large-print guides are available at the entrance or digitally via a QR code.

Explore more...

Visit the *Medicine* galleries on level 1 to learn how our ideas about health have changed throughout history. Discover more about how medicine is used to diagnose and treat illness, and how our environment and lifestyle affect our health.

The Science Museum website features many different activities, films and games to continue your experience back at home or in the classroom.