

Part C: Reading Comprehension

When an art museum wants a new exhibit, it buys things in finished form and hangs them on its walls. When a natural history museum wants an exhibit, it often must build it realistically – from a mass of material and evidence brought together by careful research.

An animal, for example, must first be skinned. Photographs and measurements are used to determine the animal's structure in a natural position—fighting, resting, or feeding. Then muscle forms are built and a plaster shell is made. Finally the skin is pulled over the shell like a wet glove. This completes the animal subject.

Displaying such things as stone heads, giant trees, and meteorites is basically mechanical. Most other natural history exhibits present more difficult problems. For instance, how can a creature be exhibited when it is too small to be seen clearly? In these cases, larger-than-life models are built. The American Museum of Natural History has models of fleas, houseflies, and a myriad other insects enlarged up to seventy-four times. The models show the stages of the insects' development and the workings of their bodies.

13- The best title for this passage is

- 1) Making an Animal Subject
- 2) Problems of Exhibiting Natural History
- 3) Natural History
- 4) Building a Museum Exhibit

14- Models are built larger than life to

- 1) show animals of many different sizes
- 2) seem more realistic
- 3) attract a lot of visitors
- 4) show details that would be hidden in true scale

15- Natural history exhibits differ from art exhibits in that they

- 1) are never borrowed
- 2) are not displayed to the public
- 3) often must be built
- 4) do not need research