

Climate Change Scavenger Hunt

You are an environmental inspector for the National Park Service. Your task is to inspect the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument visitor center and make sure the park is taking steps to reduce its carbon footprint. Answer the questions and draw sketches in the blank boxes below.

1. Where are the solar panels installed? What is their purpose?

On the roof above the exhibit room.

Absorb sunlight to generate electricity and/or heat.

2. Where do you see LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs installed? Why might they be better than other types of light bulbs?

Along the ceiling in various locations of the visitor center.

They consume up to 90% less power than regular light bulbs.

3. What are solar plate collectors used for? Where are they located in the visitor center?

To heat water with the sun's energy.

On the roof above the paleo lab area.

4. Where do you see skylights in the visitor center? How do they contribute to making this an energy-efficient building?

There is one above the visitor center desk.

They let in natural light, minimizing electricity use.

5. Where is the solar furnace located? What is its purpose?

On the wall of the visitor center, to the left of the entrance.

Heat air using the sun's energy before it enters the building.

6. Why are multi-layered windows helpful? Where do you see this in the visitor center?

They minimize the heat loss of a building.

By both the entrance doors and the doors leading to the outside patio.