



Visit the *RACE* exhibition at the Science Museum of Minnesota from January 10-May 6, 2007. Admission is free to museum members or with standard exhibit admission.

The exhibit was made possible by generous funding from the Ford Foundation & National Science Foundation. Underwriting support for *RACE* programs is provided by St. Paul Travelers Foundation, The Saint Paul Foundation, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, The Minneapolis Foundation and the Archie and Bertha Walker Foundation.

For information on hours, prices, parking, or other things to do at the museum, please call 651-221-9444 or visit smm.org



RACE

Are We So Different?™



A Project of American Anthropological Association
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January 10 - May 6, 2007



Family Guide



Look around.

Even very small children notice that people look different. These differences have offered us strength, community and identity. However, these same differences have also been the historical basis for discrimination and oppression.

Scientific understanding of human variation is beginning to challenge “racial” differences, and even question the very concept of race. We invite you to explore these ideas as you experience the *RACE* exhibit.

Important information to know:

- No matter your color or background, *RACE* will give you an opportunity to examine yourself and how you see others.
- The *RACE* exhibit examines the topic from scientific, historical and cultural perspectives.
- Because it's never too early to have conversations about race, this exhibit is for the whole family, but since there is a lot of reading, middle school and older students will enjoy it most. To best include the youngest family members, please see the **Questions to Discuss** section in this Family Guide.

RACE: A Story with Three Themes

Let your family learn the story of race by diving into the rich collection of video, photography, printed word, and interactive technology resources. As you experience *RACE*, think and talk about these three themes:

• The Science of Human Variation

Start your journey by learning what current science research tells us about human variation and its connection to ideas about race. Explore our common ancestry, learn why we are different as well as alike, and see how many common ideas about race are inaccurate or incomplete.

• The History of Race

The exhibit demonstrates how economic interests, power struggles, scientific research, and even popular culture have informed the American understanding of race, and have provided a sturdy framework for discrimination. Learn about race as a human invention, and see how scientists who once legitimized ideas about race are now dismantling them.

• Race in our Culture

So what is race? Although the concept of race may not be biologically valid, no one can argue that culturally and socially, race is real. The exhibit shines a spotlight on how we experience the concept of race in everyday American life—at school and work, at the doctor's office, in the halls of Congress, and even every time we switch on the television!



Learn more about *RACE* at the museum:

Science Live programs (Free; see the information desk for showtimes):

- **Race to the Finish Line:** Two friends attempt to answer the question “Why is it important to discuss the topic of race?”
- **Dr. Charles Drew:** ‘Dr. Charles Drew’ speaks about his pioneering research into blood plasma research and the prejudices he faced in pursuing it.
- **Voices:** A piece written by Twin Cities area high school students in collaboration with professional playwright Stacey Parshall. The students’ experiences and opinions about race and racism will be crafted into a script that will be performed in the dark, allowing audiences to focus only on the voices and the stories. *Voices* will open in mid-February and continue through the run of the *RACE* exhibit.

And at home:

- Visit the *RACE* website: www.understandingrace.org
- Read a book or three with your children. See suggestions in the *RACE* Resource Center or in the Explore Store.

Questions to Discuss

- Where did you come from?
- Where did your parents or grandparents come from?
- Who do you know who looks different from you?
- Are they different or the same in ways other than how they look?
- How does this exhibit (or part of the exhibit) make you feel?
- What did you learn about yourself or your family in the exhibit?
- What can you do to share the ideas you’ve seen in this exhibit?
- Do you think your school (or team or other group) would be a better place if they knew these ideas about race? Why or why not?

Keeping the Conversation Going

- Relate the exhibition to experiences in your family life. For example, “Do kids in your classroom tend to hang out only with kids who look just like them, or do you all tend to play together? Why?”
- Answer children’s questions honestly. It’s okay to not know all of the answers, or even to be uncertain about your own feelings or perceptions about race.
- Be sensitive to your own and your children’s reactions. People, including kids, experience this exhibit and racial attitudes in a variety of ways. What can you learn from them?