



**RACE**[®]
Are We So Different?

SLOAN MUSEUM

August 4 – December 9, 2018

FREE ADMISSION

A Family Experience: How to engage your child with this exhibit

Guide developed by Artina Sadler and Traci Kim

Thank you for visiting the [Race: Are We So Different?](#) exhibit. This exhibit is an excellent way for parents and children to have productive and interesting conversations about human variation and race. As parents, you may not know where to begin, so this discussion guide will give you some suggestions for getting the most out of the exhibit with your child.

The exhibit is divided into three sections. Each section explores a different aspect of race and the United States experience. There is so much information contained in the exhibit that it would be impossible to cover everything in this guide. Your family will probably not be able to digest every panel, video, and activity in one visit. Instead, this guide is designed to highlight the key topics in each section of the exhibit, to help you make the most of your visit.

Introduction

We recommend watching the 5-minute introductory video at the beginning of the exhibit. This will give you a better understanding of the key points in the exhibit.

Section 1

These questions will help you explore the first section of the exhibit, “*Science of Human Variation and Challenging Misconceptions About Race.*”

Discussion Questions:

- Why do people have different skin colors?
- What does it mean that we are all African?
- How would you describe your race?

Takeaways:

1. Race is not based on biology.
2. All human migration began in Africa.
3. There is only one race: the human race.

Section 2

These questions will help you explore the second section of the exhibit, “*History of Race and How Race was Constructed.*”

Discussion Questions:

- How was the idea of “race” created?
- Why was the idea of “race” created?
- Who benefits from the creation of race?

Takeaways:

1. Race is a social construct that privileges some and disadvantages others.
2. The history of race is the foundation for present-day racism.
3. Whites are given the privileges of a racist system, even if they are not personally racist.

Section 3

These questions will help you explore the third section of the exhibit, “*Everyday Experiences of Race and Racism in the United States.*”

Discussion Questions:

- What happened to Native American children when the U.S. Government took Native American land?
- When black people fought in World War II, what was the reason they didn’t get the benefits of the G.I. Bill like white people?
- What is the difference between the net worth of the average African American family and the average white family today? What are the reasons for this difference?
- How racially diverse are the teachers and staff in your child’s school?
- How does racism impact health?

Takeaways:

1. Land, taken from Native Americans, has secured generational wealth for white people.
2. The G.I. Bill was written a benefit for all serviceman after World War II, but in practice it only benefited white servicemen.
3. The net worth of the average African American family today is only one tenth of that of the average White family.
4. Diversity in education is beneficial for all.
5. Racism impacts health status by contributing to racial disparities in health, which means people of color often have worse health outcomes than white people.