Our Philosophy
The MIT Museum workshops are based on the educational philosophies of MIT Professor Seymour Papert, an expert in mathematics, artificial intelligence, and education. Students have fun working in teams, brainstorming and talking about everything from geometry to programming to cellular biology – just like MIT students do every day.

Workshops

DNA Learning Lab: Protein Synthesis
(High school students only)

Students with a background in molecular biology use the MIT Museum’s dedicated space, Learning Lab: The Cell, to explore transcription, translation, and protein folding. This workshop, for high school and AP Biology students, uses LEGO® kits, digital and physical models, and guided discussions to explore key concepts in molecular biology.

DNA Learning Lab: DNA and Proteins

Students use the MIT Museum’s dedicated space, Learning Lab: The Cell, for a lesson about two vital biomolecules: DNA and proteins. Students will explore this fundamental basis of life with LEGO DNA kits, digital models, and guided discussions.

Why Skyscrapers Stand Up and Bridges Don’t Fall Down

Find out just how strong a piece of paper can be, bridge distances you’d never think possible, and see the simple geometry at the root of the tallest buildings in this active workshop on architecture and structural engineering. Students work together as teams of engineers, to design and build bridges using recycled materials, and to learn how structures stand up.

Programming Mindstorms

Explore what makes a robot tick in this introduction to programming robots. Students use the LEGO Mindstorms NXT and NXT-G Programming Environment to get robots sensing, thinking, and moving. This workshop includes a guided tour of the Robots and Beyond exhibition.

Guided Tours

Work with our museum educators to customize a tour or choose the Highlights Tour for your students. Tours typically last 60–90 minutes and can be tailored to the interests of your group. Tours are led by MIT Museum staff and volunteers and are subject to the availability of tour guides.

Lab Links

Throughout the year, MIT scientists will connect with students at the MIT Museum and at regional schools via video links to display and discuss exciting research going on right now in the Lab. Call for a schedule of upcoming Lab Links.

Self-Guided Gallery Visits

The MIT Museum has galleries in three locations at MIT, with the main galleries at 265 Massachusetts Ave. A gallery activity guide is available upon request to help teachers develop a positive gallery-based learning experience for their students. For self-guided gallery visits, groups of up to 75 students may enter the Museum at one time. For larger groups, we can work with you to stagger students’ entrance or coordinate among additional resources and activities available at MIT.

Planning Your Visit

Workshops and guided tours can be scheduled at any time during the MIT Museum’s open hours. Workshop availability can be limited during busy seasons; book early to assure a slot. Admission to the MIT Museum galleries only is $3.00 per student and $7.50 per adult. (One chaperone admitted free per eight students).

All workshops and guided tours are $150.00, which includes admission to the MIT Museum galleries. Each workshop or tour can accommodate up to 25 students. Larger groups will be divided into sections of 25 or fewer. Workshops last approximately two hours, and can be adjusted in length to match your schedule and learning goals.

Getting Here

The MIT Museum is located in Cambridge, a short walk from the Central Square “T” stop on the Red Line. Directions and information on how to access the #1 bus on Massachusetts Ave. are posted on our website: web.mit.edu/museum.

Restaurants

Within a few blocks of the MIT Museum are an array of inexpensive restaurants, coffee shops, and ice cream parlors, as well as parks for picnic lunches in warm weather. The MIT Student Center also has restaurants and snack bars, as well as large outdoor and indoor eating areas.

Other Activities

MIT offers many other activities and facilities for students and school groups. A full listing of MIT’s K–12 programs is available online at web.mit.edu/outreach. Check the MIT Museum website to join the e-mail newsletter, which will alert you to new exhibitions and programs!

 Reserve a Program

Please make arrangements at least three weeks in advance.

NEW!

NEW!

web.mit.edu/museum/education

School Programs for Grades 6–12
2008–09