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The Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian Institution has its headquarters in Washington, D.C. The British scientist James Smithson inspired the creation of the Institute in 1846. It sponsors scientific research and exploration, publishes books, and maintains the national collections of the United States. The library of the Smithsonian Institution contains over 1.2 million books.

The Smithsonian Institution is made up of 14 museums and galleries, as well as the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. The National Museum of the American Indian and Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York City are also part of the Institution.

Activity: Find out more about this fascinating institution by visiting their Web site at www.si.edu. Choose two of the museums to research and answer the questions below.

1. What is the name of this museum or gallery?

2. What would you see if you went there?

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