The Hudson River flows from the Adirondack Mountains 315 miles south to the bay between New York City and New Jersey, where it meets the Atlantic Ocean. What do you know about the Hudson River? Have you been to places along it?

_Hudson Rising_ tells the stories of how parts of the river were threatened and then later protected. Today, the movement to protect nature is called “environmentalism.” Use this guide to explore, discuss, and do fun activities in the exhibition.

_Start your _Hudson Rising_ journey at **Thomas Cole’s Course of Empire**.

These five paintings tell a story about the rise and fall of an empire. View them from _The Savage State_ to _Desolation_.

**What happens to nature as people create and destroy their empire?**

**What happens to the people?**
Find three objects that you can touch. Read their labels with your adults.

What are they? What do they feel like? What Hudson River industries are they related to?

In the 1800s, businesses used natural materials found along the Hudson River like clay, iron, and trees. Boats also transported goods on the river more efficiently than ever.

Find Samuel Colman’s painting *Storm King on the Hudson*

What do you notice?

When this painting was made in 1866, some may have seen it as nature being destroyed, while others saw civilization thriving. What do you see? Mark the scale below to represent each person in your group’s perspective.

Extra Challenge: What industry is being portrayed in the painting above?

Samuel Colman was part of the Hudson River School of artists, like founder Thomas Cole. Read about them in this section!
Find Asher B. Durand’s painting Adirondack Mountains, New York. What do you notice?

In the 1800s, the logging industry cut down tons of trees and sold the wood for different uses. This led to deforestation.

Why did he think the Adirondacks should be protected?

How did he share his message with New York State legislators?

If you were a lawmaker then, why would you most want to protect the Adirondacks?

Discuss with your family:

Watch Seneca Ray Stoddard’s slideshow.

The Adirondacks were legally declared as “forever wild” in the late 1890s.
Go to Section 3
THE PALISADES

Find the painting
Palisades, Hudson River.

What are the Palisades?
Pretend this image is part of a tourism brochure. Write a slogan on it to get people to visit the Palisades.

Find a piece of Palisades rock and touch it!
What was happening to the Palisades in the late 1800s? Hint: Look for newspaper headlines.

Cecilia Gaines of the New Jersey Federation of Women’s Clubs fought against Palisades rock blasting.
Find her scrapbook.
Without the right to vote, how did women convince lawmakers to protect the Palisades?

Find the photos and list of camp groups that visited the Palisades State Park.

Pretend you are a camper. Sketch an animal from the Trailside Museum to share with others back home.

Discuss with your family:
Have you been to summer camp in a nature reserve or public park? How do your experiences compare to what you see here?
Go to Section 4
THE HUDSON HIGHLANDS

From 1962–1980, community groups fought in court and in other ways to stop Con Edison from building a hydroelectric power plant on Storm King Mountain. The power plant was never built.

Look at John Ferguson Weir’s painting *View of the Highlands from West Point.*
What sounds would you hear if this painting came to life? Make them with your family.

Find the aquarium to learn whose spawning grounds were threatened by the Storm King plant.
What would these fish have said about the plant?

Read Frances Dunwell’s quote about pollution in the Hudson, and then check out the pollution map.
Do any of these kinds of pollution have an impact on your life?

Write or draw a sign that you might have carried at a parade on the first Earth Day in April 1970 to protest pollution in the Hudson River.
Go to Section 5
A Rising Tide

Compare the before and after photos of Beacon’s Long Dock and New York City’s Hudson River Park.

What changes do you notice?

Read the label to learn how these changes help the environment bounce back and make these areas prettier for visitors.

How do landscape architecture firms like SCAPE plan to restore shorelines devastated by Hurricanes Sandy and Irene?

Reflect Before You Go!

1. What problem affecting the environment do you care about? Could any of the change-making strategies you learned about here be used to solve the problem?
   Hint: Talking to lawmakers, bringing court cases, getting reporters to write about the problem etc.

2. What did you learn today that made you feel...
   Hopeful | Angry | Inspired | Worried
   Proud | Surprised
If these words don’t apply, come up with your own!
IMAGE CREDITS:


Andrew Fisher Bunner, *Cutting Ice, Rockland Lake, New York*, ca. 1890.


Cecilia Gaines.

Educational program, 1920s. Palisades Interstate Park Commission Archives.

John Ferguson Weir, *View of the Highlands from West Point*, 1862.


Long Dock in the 19th century. Scenic Hudson.

Unless otherwise noted, all images are collection of the New-York Historical Society.