Explore the Human Hand:
Humans have a unique precision grip made possible by our opposable thumb—which can touch all four fingers. Wrap masking tape around each student’s writing hand to hold their thumbs in line with their fingers. Have them test their abilities to pick up, manipulate, and put down objects with and without their thumbs. Ask: How are human hands adapted for grasping objects? What does the grasping hand enable us to do?

Compare Primates:
Show students a photograph of a human and two other primates. (You can download and print photos from the Educator’s Guide.) Tell students that humans belong to a group of animals called primates. Ask: In what ways do these primates look alike? In what ways are they different? Referring to the pictures, have students select a particular body part from two primates and draw them for comparison. Then have them label the differences and similarities of the body part.

You can correlate your visit to the Spitzer Hall of Human Origins to the NEW YORK CITY SCOPE AND SEQUENCE for grades 1–4.

**Grade 1**
**Unit 3 Animal Diversity**
Compare and contrast the physical characteristics in animals.
Describe how physical traits help a species survive.

**Grade 3**
**Unit 4 Plant and Animal Adaptations**
Recognize that traits of living things are both:
- Inherited (eye color).
- Learned/acquired (riding a bicycle, having scars).

**Grade 4**
**Unit 1 Animals and Plants in Their Environments**
Recognize that individual variations within a species may cause certain individuals to have an advantage in surviving and reproducing.
Describe the way that humans:
- Depend on their natural and constructed environment.
Examining the Evidence:
Find the round Hands-on Fossils table called “Examining the Evidence” in the first section of the hall. Observe and touch the three feet. How are they alike? How are they different? Write your answers below. Do the same with the two jaws.

Feet: Alike: ____________________________________________

Different: _____________________________________________

Jaws: Alike: ___________________________________________

Different: _____________________________________________

Diorama Scenes:
Choose your favorite diorama scene. Observe what the figures are doing and where they live. Answer as many questions as you can about this scene:

NAME OF DIORAMA SCENE: ______________________________

How do they get their food? __________________________________

What is their shelter? _____________________________________

Are they wearing clothes? What does this tell you about the place they live? ______________

What do they use tools for? _________________________________

What dangers do they face? ________________________________

Draw Cave Art:
Observe the ancient cave wall above the back entrance. Sketch the art on the back of this paper. What does this art tell you about the people who created it?