



## Skulls line the walls at the Cal Academy of Sciences

Skulls at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco

By Evan Borders

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Evan Borders

The California Academy of Sciences has opened the doors to Skulls, a new exhibit featuring 640 different animal skulls.

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Skulls on display range from an enormous African bull elephant to a tiny shrew, from frogs, fish, and birds to giraffes, warhogs, and walruses.



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"A skull provides important information about a species' evolution—and it also reveals secrets about that individual animal's life," says Moe Flannery, Collections Manager of Ornithology & Mammalogy at the Academy. "By searching for clues written into the bone, we can follow the story of an animal's life, from birth to old age. We can learn what the animal ate, how it defended itself, communicated, interacted with its environment, and often how it died—all by looking at its skull."



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"When people see a skull, their first thought is often about death," says Scott Moran, Director of Exhibits at the Academy. "But the skulls in this exhibit really tell a story about life. They help us understand the living world. Here at the Academy, we house an amazing collection of more than 28 million scientific specimens from around the world, and this exhibit allows us to put hundreds of them on display, giving visitors the opportunity to investigate, discover, and wonder at some of our most fascinating biological treasures."









