

DEATH: LIFE'S GREATEST MYSTERY



FIELD.
MUSEUM

DEATH: LIFE'S GREATEST MYSTERY

Exhibition Details

Size: 7,500 ft² (700 m²)

Ceiling Height: 12 ft (3.66 m)

Tour: Fall 2023 – Fall 2028

Curators:

Gary Feinman, Ph.D.

MacArthur Curator of Mesoamerican, Central American, and East Asian Anthropology
Field Museum

Ryan Williams, Ph.D.

Associate Curator, Department of Anthropology
Field Museum

Dr. Luis Muro Ynoñán

Anthropology Postdoctoral Scientist
Field Museum



Features

- 100 objects and specimens from Anthropology, Zoology, Geology, and Botany collections
- 5 replications, including reconstructions of a whale fall diorama and ancient burials
- 6 digital and sensory interactive elements
- Exhibition does not contain human remains





Cultural and biological perspectives hold possible answers to big questions about death and life.

LIFE GOES ON AFTER DEATH.
AND COULD NOT WITHOUT IT.

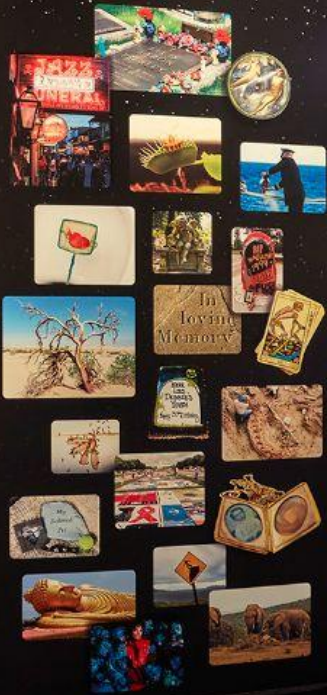
Death affects everyone and everything around us—we will all eventually die. But the way we deal with that fact is deeply personal.

This exhibition explores the big questions we all have about death—and the many answers offered by individuals, communities, and ecosystems around the world.

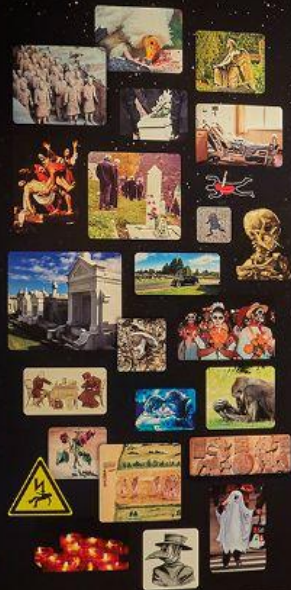
LA VIDA CONTINÚA DESPUÉS DE LA MUERTE. Y NO PODRÍA SER SIN ELLA.

La muerte afecta a todos y a todo lo que nos rodea; eventualmente, todos moriremos. Pero la forma en que lidiamos con ese hecho es profundamente personal.

Esta exposición explora las grandes preguntas que todos tienen sobre la muerte—y las muchas respuestas ofrecidas por individuos, comunidades y ecosistemas alrededor del mundo.



DEATH IS EVERYWHERE
LA MUERTE ESTÁ EN TODAS PARTES



EXHIBITION SUMMARY

Consider your own “big questions” about death as you explore natural and cultural responses to life’s inevitable conclusion.

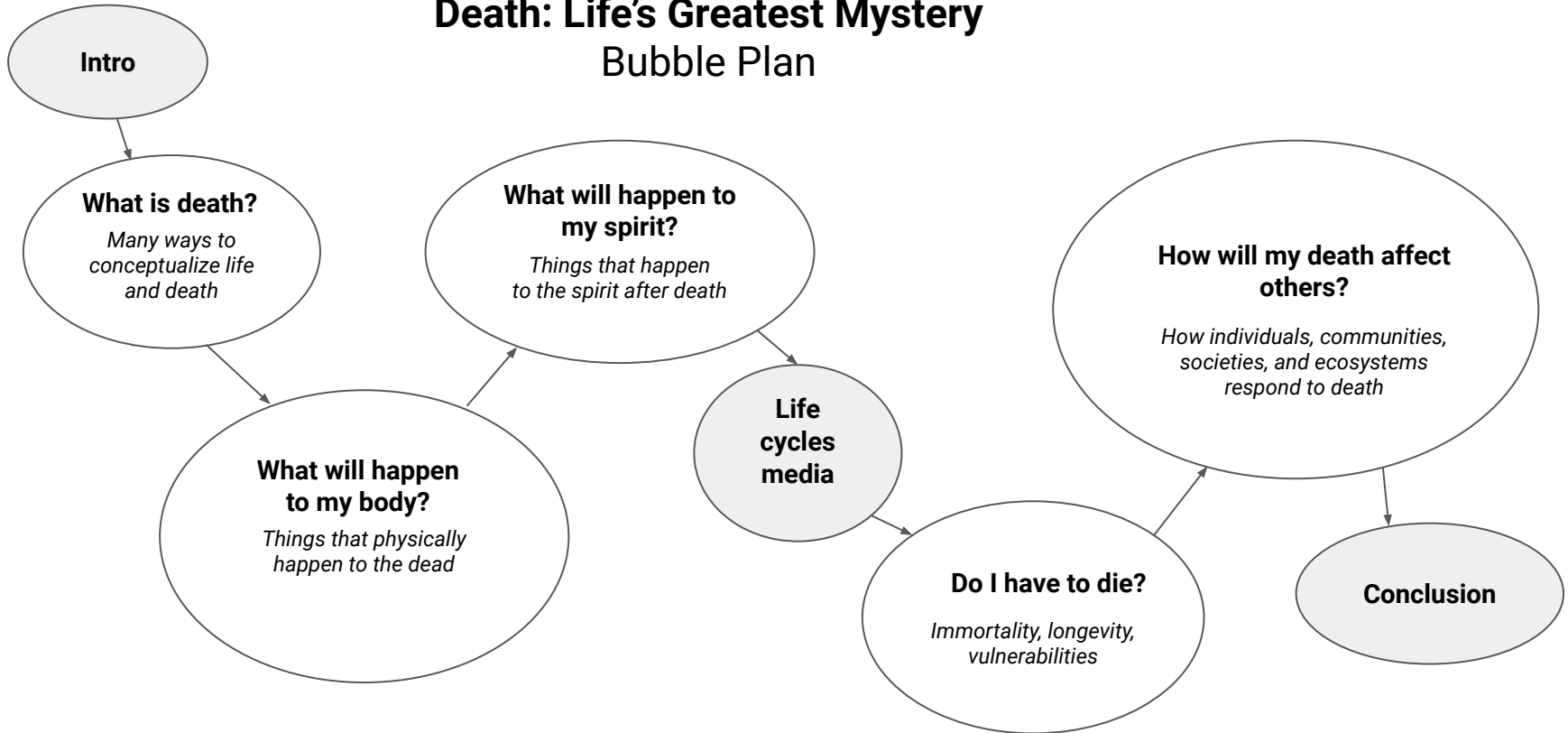
Exhibition Summary

EXHIBITION SUMMARY

Through artifacts, specimens, interactives, and immersive media experiences, discover amazing animal adaptations for survival and learn how various cultures commemorate life. Reflect on death as part of the cycle of life, and leave with a profound new understanding of life's most universal experience.

Death: Life's Greatest Mystery

Bubble Plan



Visitor Goals

Sensory/Motor

Visitors will

- Encounter stories organized around the big questions about death we all face
- Feel a sense of harmony and quietude as they visit affective-learning spaces that center and calm visitors between galleries
- Investigate objects from multiple perspectives
- Explore immersive, multi-sensory experiences such as ancient burials, celebrations of ancestors, or the body of a whale on the seafloor
- Be invited to discuss and reflect on death with facilitators or with their visiting group

Affective

Visitors will feel

- Like this is a safe and comfortable space for engaging with difficult or taboo subjects
- That the tone of the exhibition is respectful, but positive, with moments of humor

Cognitive

Visitors will know/learn

- Death is not finite: the matter and meaning of dead individuals carries on after death
- Since everything and everyone eventually dies, dealing with death is universal
- Life, death, growth, and decay are cyclically connected
- Death disrupts social networks, and people meet this challenge with rituals, customs, and traditions that help cope with loss
- It is important to acknowledge and plan for death

Before I die I want to Make a difference

Before I die I want to

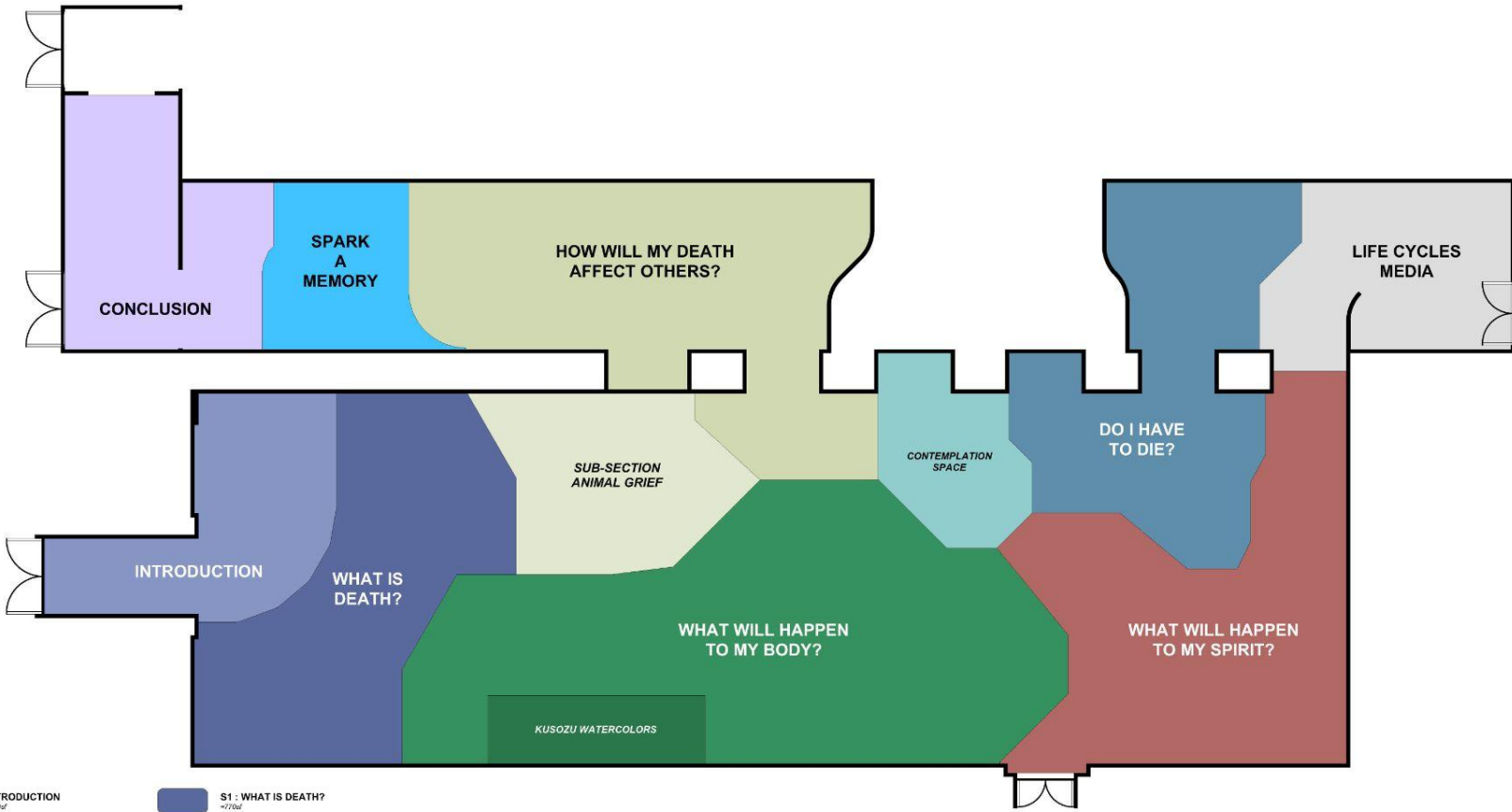
Before I die I want to Eat an entire pie

Before I die I want to eat the world cuisine,

Before I die I want to TRAVEL THE WHOLE WORLD

Before I die I want to COMPLETE MY BUCKETLISTS.

Before I die I want to change someone's life for the better



INTRODUCTION
~600sf

CONCLUSION
~400sf

LIFE CYCLES MEDIA
~900sf

CONTEMPLATION SPACE
~200sf

SPARK A MEMORY
~270sf

S1 : WHAT IS DEATH?
~770sf

S2 : WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY BODY?
~1340sf

S3 : WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY SPIRIT?
~800sf

S4 : HOW WILL MY DEATH AFFECT OTHERS?
~1470sf (incl. sub-section)

S4 : ANIMAL GRIEF
~400sf

S5 : DO I HAVE TO DIE?
~750sf



Introduction

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AND COULD NOT WITHOUT IT.

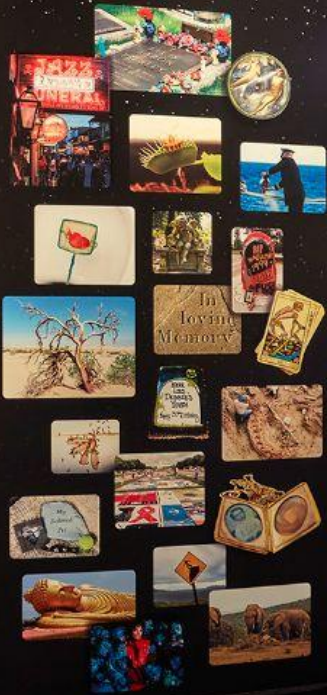
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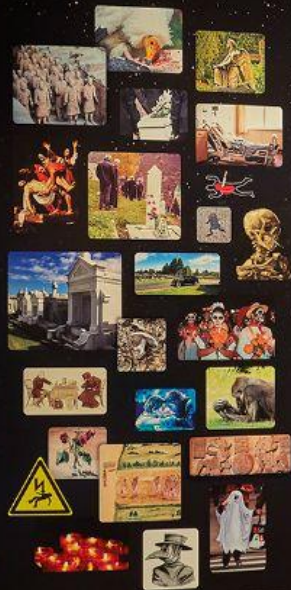
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DEATH IS EVERYWHERE
LA MUERTE ESTÁ EN TODAS PARTES



WHAT
WILL
HAPPEN
TO MY
BODY?

¿QUÉ LE
PASARÁ
A MI
CUERPO?

WHAT
WILL
HAPPEN
TO MY
SPIRIT?

¿QUÉ LE
PASARÁ
A MI
ESPÍRITU?

DO I
HAVE TO
DIE?

¿TENGO
QUE
MORIR?

HOW
WILL MY
DEATH
AFFECT
OTHERS?

¿CÓMO
AFECTARÁ
MI MUERTE
A LOS
DEMÁS?

WHAT IS
DEATH?

¿QUÉ ES LA MUERTE?

There is no one answer.

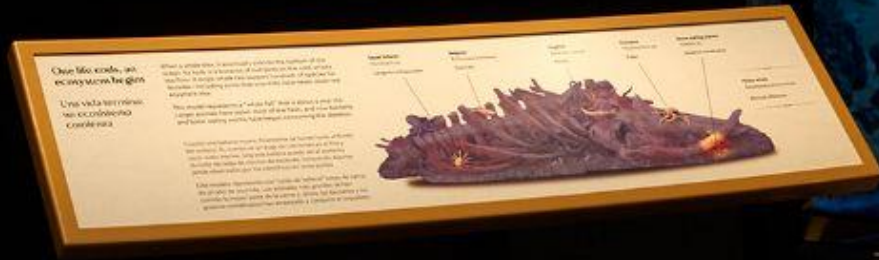
It is called an inevitability: dying and being forgotten. Yet we know we
believe in something more: some kind of disembodied spiritual existence
that survives death frequently repeated. And even if that were true,
it doesn't mean we're perfect. The idea of "heaven" is almost
more a wish for a better life than a reality. The place we are offered is not
eternity: it is a place that death is part of a process, not a final point.

No hay una respuesta a death.

Nuestro único destino y así concebido inconmensurable, pero
nuestro destino. En el cielo (heaven), que alguna vez fue una
destinación, pero al morir para la muerte, donde nos encontramos
nuestro destino. Y los muertos que viven en una tierra de vida y esperanza
nuestro destino. La muerte es una muerte, y la muerte es un proceso
de vida y de destino. Cuando una persona muere, ella vive en
la vida que la muerte es parte de un proceso, no un punto final.



What is death?



"I go to
seek a Great
Perhaps."

-François Rabelais

"Me voy en busca
del gran quizás".

-François Rabelais

"To die will be
an awfully big
adventure."

-J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

"Morir será la
más grande
de todas las
aventuras".

-J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

"Death is only
the beginning."

-Imhotep, *The Mummy*

"La muerte
es apenas el
comienzo".

-Imhotep, *La Momia*

WHAT IS
DEATH?
¿ES LA MUERTE?

Imhotep, the first pharaoh of Egypt, was a brilliant physician and a great builder. He was the first to use the word "mummy" to describe the process of preserving a body for the afterlife.

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WHAT IS DEATH?

If a flatworm is cut in half and both parts become new worms, did it ever die? If a person's brain stops functioning but their other organs are still working, are they dead? Challenge what you "know" about death.

WHAT IS DEATH?

What is death?

SECTION ELEMENTS

Biological deaths

- Whale fall replica
- Immersive diorama
- Real whale bone from the deep sea
- Video from a ROV visiting a whale fall

Social deaths

- Goat skull shrine prop
- Capacocha figures
- Miniature ceramic vessels

Spiritual deaths

- Adam and Eve blouse panel
- Reclining Buddha

Poll interactive: Dead or Alive?



What will happen to my body?



WHAT WILL HAPPEN
TO MY BODY?
¿QUÉ VA A PASAR
CON MI CUERPO?



My body will be transformed. My final resting place will be a place of peace and tranquility. My body will be transformed into a new form, a new shape, a new color. My body will be transformed into a new form, a new shape, a new color.

My body will be transformed. My final resting place will be a place of peace and tranquility. My body will be transformed into a new form, a new shape, a new color. My body will be transformed into a new form, a new shape, a new color.



"In the midst of death, life persists."

—Mikaela Gaudin

"En medio de la muerte persiste la vida".

—Mikaela Gaudin



You probably won't
be a fossil
Probablemente no te
convertirás en fósil

This park contains more than 10 fossilized landscapes
and more than 100,000 fossils of plants and animals.
These fossils are the remains of plants and animals that
lived here millions of years ago. Fossils were first
discovered in the 1920s when workers digging for
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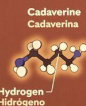
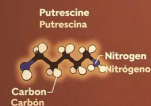


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animals.

What do dead bodies smell like? ¿A qué huelen los cadáveres?

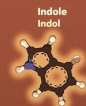
Decaying human bodies give off a unique set of scents, caused when bacteria—which usually occupy our skin, gut, and even the air around us—begin breaking down tissues.

Los cuerpos en descomposición desprenden distintos olores que se originan cuando las bacterias—que viven en la piel, los intestinos y el aire—empiezan a descomponer el tejido muerto.



The distinctive rotting-fish odor of decaying bodies comes from two very similar compounds: **putrescine** and **cadaverine**. They're also responsible for the smell of bad breath, but you'll find them in an unexpected place—on the ingredient list of some perfumes.

El inconfundible olor a pescado podrido de los cuerpos en descomposición proviene de dos compuestos muy similares: la putrescina y la cadaverina. También, son responsables por el mal aliento, pero los encontrarás en un lugar inesperado: algunos perfumes.



Indole, with its mothball-like smell, is created when bacteria break down certain amino acids in an environment without oxygen—like inside the human gut. It's responsible for the sickly-sweet notes in the smell of bodily decay and, like putrescine and cadaverine, is an ingredient in some perfumes.

El indol, con su olor a naftalina, se crea cuando las bacterias descomponen ciertos aminoácidos en un ambiente sin oxígeno, como en el intestino humano. Da las notas dulces empalagosas del cuerpo en descomposición y, como la putrescina y la cadaverina, es un ingrediente de algunos perfumes.

Please smell... if you're sure you want to.
Huele... solo si estás seguro.





Parad Illustration on the Persistence of Life
Page 10

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Statue di Hathor
Le statue di Hathor sono
molto rare e preziose.
Sono state trovate in
diverse tombe e sono
state conservate in
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ALL ABOUT CREMATION, AS TOLD BY CHICKENS TODO SOBRE LA CREMACIÓN, SEGÚN LOS POLLOS



Cremation

This is a chicken after traditional **cremation**, a process of high-temperature incineration. In most funeral homes or crematoriums, a body is burned for about 90 minutes at a temperature of 1,400–2,100 °F (760–1,150 °C). Then, dry bone fragments are processed and mixed with the rest of the ashes to create fine, sandy-textured **cremains**.

Este es un pollo después de una **cremación** tradicional: un proceso de incineración a altas temperaturas. En la mayoría de las funerarias o crematorios, un cuerpo es quemado durante 90 minutos a una temperatura de 1,400–2,100 °F (760–1,150 °C). Después, los fragmentos de hueso seco se procesan y mezclan con el resto de las cenizas para crear unas **cenizas mortuorias** finas y con textura de arena.



Alkaline Hydrolysis

This is a chicken after **alkaline hydrolysis**, a method of chemical cremation also known as water cremation. It uses a mixture of water, heat, pressure, and a lye-like substance to **dissolve** a body's tissues. It's a popular cremation method because of its **low environmental footprint**, but it isn't legal in every US state.

Este es un pollo después de una **hidrólisis alcalina**, método de cremación química también conocido como cremación con agua. Se usa una mezcla de agua, calor, presión y una sustancia semejante a la lejía para **dissolver** los tejidos de un cuerpo. Es un método de cremación popular debido a su **reducida huella ambiental**, pero no es legal en todos los estados de EE. UU.



Promession

This is an approximation of a chicken after **promession**, an experimental process where the body is **freeze-dried** using liquid nitrogen, then **vibrated** at high frequency to produce powdered remains. Promession is still a **theoretical** procedure and not currently available as a body disposal method.

Esta es una aproximación a lo que es un pollo después de una **promesión**, proceso experimental donde el cuerpo es liofilizado con nitrógeno líquido y después **expuesto a vibraciones** de alta frecuencia para producir restos pulverizados. La **promesión** aún es un procedimiento **teórico** y actualmente no está disponible como método para deshacerse de un cuerpo.



Cremains Diamond

What happens to cremains? Some are kept in **urns**. Some people scatter them at a significant place. But by separating out the carbon and exposing it to a high-temperature, high-pressure environment, cremains can also be turned into **diamonds**.

¿Qué pasa con las cenizas mortuorias? Algunas se guardan en **urnas**. Algunas **promiesan** las esparcen en algún lugar significativo. Pero al separar el carbono y exponerlo a un ambiente de altas temperaturas y alta presión, las cenizas mortuorias también pueden convertirse en **diamantes**.

Lab-created diamond, from animal cremains
Created by iStock.com
(St. Grove Village, Illinois)
Created by iStock.com

Diamante creado en laboratorio a partir de las cenizas de un animal
Creado por iStock.com
(St. Grove Village, Illinois)







*In Ghana, your coffin
carries both your
body and your legacy*

*In Ghana, at a final
ceremony of courage and
bravery you are laid to
rest in a coffin that carries
both your body and your
legacy*



Coffin Museum

The Coffin Museum is a small building in the heart of Accra, Ghana, where the Coffin Lovers' Club is based.

The Coffin Lovers' Club is a group of people who are passionate about the art of coffin-making in Ghana.

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This Chanca family preserved and communally buried their dead
Esta familia chanca preservó y enterró en comunidad a sus muertos

A thousand years ago, the Chanca people lived in villages along the coast of Peru. In the mountains, generations of their ancestors were buried in a complex city surrounded by pits of food, chicha (corn beer), and other offerings. Bodies were wrapped in textiles and adorned with gold beads to preserve the individual identity of the deceased. The bundled bodies often remained with guests and family.

Hace mil años, el pueblo Chanca vivía en aldeas a lo largo de la costa de Perú. En las montañas, generaciones de sus ancestros fueron enterrados en tumbas con bienes que se colocaban al lado de los cuerpos, como alimentos de maíz y otros ofrecimientos. Los cuerpos de los muertos se envolvían en textiles con adornos de oro para preservar su identidad individual. Los cuerpos a menudo quedaban con los huéspedes y la familia.

Chanca burial bundles
Bultos de entierro Chanca



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY BODY?

Investigate the natural processes and human interventions that transform bodies after death. See a fossil slab that reveals how remains can be preserved over millions of years. Consider a recreated Chancay burial chamber from ancient Peru, and discover the wide range of treatments people today choose for their remains, from green burials to gemstones made from cremains.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY BODY?

What will happen to my body?

SECTION ELEMENTS

Undergo a natural process

Decompose

- Kusozu watercolors (x10)
- Decomposition smell interactive

Reuse

- Black-backed jackal
- American giant millipede
- Stony coral

Fossilize

- *Leptomeryx* bone bed



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY BODY?

What will happen to my body?

SECTION ELEMENTS

Be transformed

- Cremated chickens
- Green burial display
- Chevra kadisha heirlooms
- Cremlains gemstone

Be physically preserved

- Chancay burial reproduction
- Cuchimilco figure
- Canopic jars and animal mummies
- Contemporary embalming tools

Have a resting place

- Ghanaian canoe-shaped coffin

Poll interactive: How do you want to be laid to rest?



What will happen to my spirit?



"How can the dead be truly dead when they still live in the souls of those who are left behind?"

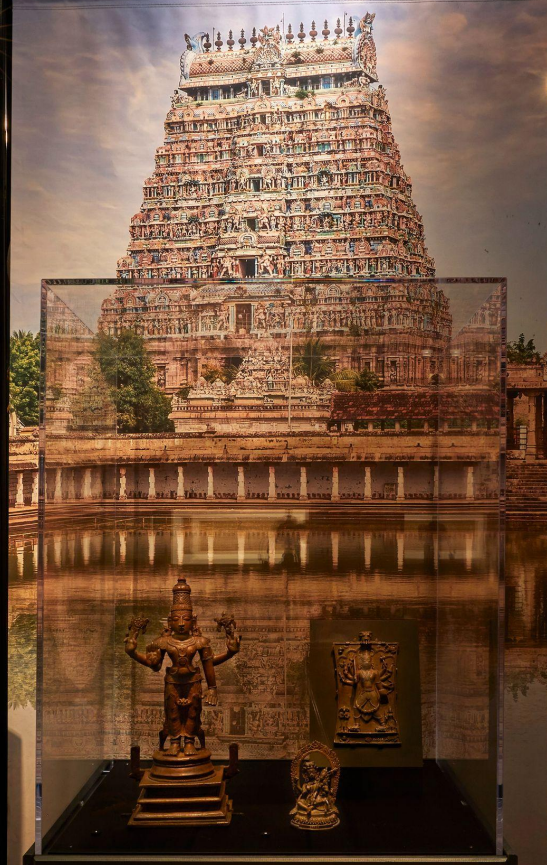
"¿Cómo pueden los muertos estar realmente muertos cuando aun siguen vivos en las almas de aquellos que dejaron atrás?"

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"¿Cómo pueden los muertos estar realmente muertos cuando aun siguen vivos en las almas de aquellos que dejaron atrás?"

WHAT WE, HUMANS, DO NOT UNDERSTAND
*Your spirit might entwine
 something else.*

¿QUÉ LE PASABA A MI ESPIRITO?
*Tu espíritu
 podría dar vida
 a algo más.*

Hindu reincarnation
 provides another
 chance at
 enlightenment

La reencarnación
 hindú ofrece
 otra oportunidad
 para alcanzar la
 iluminación

Reincarnation is a belief in some way
 Hindu people believe in the cycle of
 rebirth. The cycle of rebirth is a central
 part of Hinduism. It is the belief that the
 soul is reborn into a new body after death.
 The cycle of rebirth is a continuous process
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1. **Statue of Lord Venkateswara**

Statue of Lord Venkateswara
 Temple, Tirumala, India

2. **Statue of Lord Balaji**

Statue of Lord Balaji
 Temple, Tirumala, India

3. **Statue of Lord Venkateswara**

Statue of Lord Venkateswara
 Temple, Tirumala, India

Statue of Lord Venkateswara
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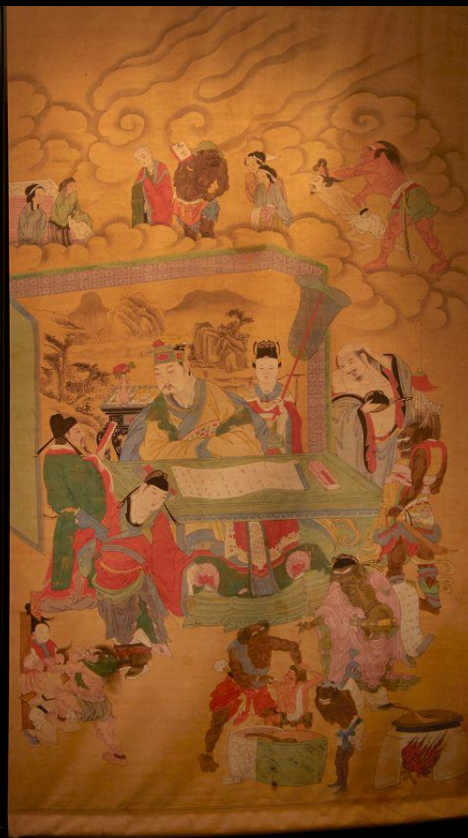
Statue of Lord Venkateswara
 Statue of Lord Venkateswara
 Temple, Tirumala, India

Statue of Lord Balaji
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Storle per piovra
 In che cosa si è
 ribellato agli
 imperatori
 e ai
 re
 e
 come
 ha
 fatto
 il
 suo
 lavoro
 di
 pupa
 di
 teatro
 di
 marionette



Indagini, documenti, e altro
 In che cosa si è
 ribellato agli
 imperatori
 e ai
 re
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 come
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 pupa
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Questions about the afterlife have been explored by nearly every culture and religion. View depictions of ghosts and spirits from around the world, inspect miniature objects and figures that were meant for use in the afterlife, and experience a colorful and intricate presentation of a Chinese drama, “The Courts of Hell.”

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY SPIRIT?

What will happen to my spirit?

SECTION ELEMENTS

Remain on Earth

- Yurei ghost scroll

Go somewhere else

- Stone girdle
- Egyptian Book of the Dead
- Mummiiform shabtis
- Egyptian model house
- “Courts of Hell” masks and figures

Enliven something else

- Statues of Hindu gods
- Haitian ritual flags
- Moche pottery



Do I have to die?

"No one really knows why they are alive until they know what they'd die for."

—Harriet Linton King Jr.

"Nadie sabe realmente por qué está vivo hasta que no descubre por qué morirá."

—Harriet Linton King Jr.

DO I HAVE TO DIE?

There are many ways to try to be immortal.

DO I HAVE TO DIE?

Hay muchas maneras de tratar de ser inmortal.

DO I HAVE TO DIE?

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Hay muchas maneras de tratar de ser inmortal.



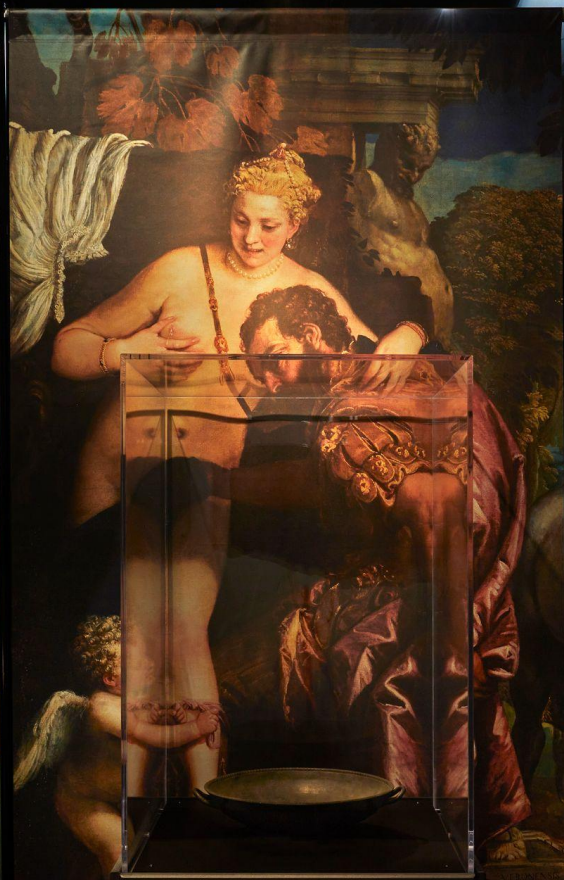
DO I
HAVE TO DIE?
¿TENGO QUE
MORIR?



Throughout time, both humans and animals have had impressive strategies for lengthening their lifespans. But, sooner or later, we all reach the end of our time on Earth. For most animals, lifespan is a product of **evolution or immediate circumstances**—but for humans, **when we die** has much more to do with **whose lives our society values most**.

A lo largo de los tiempos, humanos y animales han aplicado estrategias impresionantes para alargar su tiempo de vida. Pero, tarde o temprano, **todos llegamos al fin** de nuestro tiempo en la Tierra. Para la mayoría de los animales, su tiempo de vida es producto de **la evolución o las circunstancias inmediatas**; pero para los humanos, **el cuándo morimos** tiene mucho más que ver con **cuáles vidas valora más nuestra sociedad**.





**To Roman gods and goddesses, human calls
both of love, or war**

Para los dioses y los
diosas romanos, la
humanidad les ofrece
o amor o guerra.

John Gower, *Confessio Amantis*, c. 1390
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Primavera
Sandro Botticelli
c. 1477-1483

**Discovered that, they passed
the time of their lives in the garden
of love, or war, or war, or war**

Descubrieron que, ellos pasaron
el tiempo de sus vidas en el jardín
del amor, o guerra, o guerra, o guerra



Tardigrade
Phlebobranch tardigradus
 Photographed at
 1000x actual size

TARDIGRADES: THE MOST RESILIENT CREATURES ON EARTH

The 1,200 species in the tardigrade phylum are the hardest creatures known to science—they can survive dehydration and starvation and have been found alive in volcanoes, the deep sea, and even outer space. In real life, they're about 0.52 millimeters (0.8 mm) long—the width of two human hairs.



LOS TARDIGRADOS: LAS CRIATURAS MÁS RESILIENTES DE LA TIERRA

Las 1,200 especies de su filo son las más resistentes que se conocen a la deshidratación y la inanición, pudiendo sobrevivir a la descomposición y a la radiación. En la vida real, miden entre 0,52 milímetros (0,8 mm) de largo, el ancho de dos cabellos humanos.

*Survival shows on how to
 reproduce and where to
 survive.*

*La supervivencia nos enseña
 cómo criar la especie y
 dónde vivir.*



A BALANCING ACT: LIFESPAN AND REPRODUCTION

On an evolutionary scale, survival means passing your genes to the next generation. Some animals—like elephants and humans—achieve this by having just a few offspring and taking special care of each one. Other animals—like rodents and insects—increase the odds of their species' survival by producing lots of expendable offspring.

UN ACTO DE EQUILIBRIO: TIEMPO DE VIDA Y REPRODUCCIÓN

En la escala de la evolución, la supervivencia significa pasar sus genes a la próxima generación. Algunos animales—por ejemplo, los elefantes y los humanos—logran esto al tener pocas crías y cuidarlas especialmente a cada una de ellas. Otros animales—por ejemplo, los roedores y los insectos—aumentan las oportunidades de supervivencia de su especie al producir muchas crías prescindibles.



*Survival shows on how to
 reproduce and where to
 survive.*

*La supervivencia nos enseña
 cómo criar la especie y
 dónde vivir.*



**Different species evolve
different lifespans**
*Diferentes especies
evolucionan con diferentes
tiempos de vida*

1 Lifespan and parental care are connected.
Like humans, pandas invest a lot of time in raising and protecting their babies, so they live long. The responsibility with parental care is connected. If an animal has to take care of its young, it will live longer. If an animal has to protect its young, it will live longer.

El tiempo de vida y el cuidado parental están conectados.
Al igual que los humanos, los osos panda invierten mucho tiempo en criar y proteger a sus hijos, por lo que viven mucho tiempo. La responsabilidad con el cuidado parental está conectada. Si un animal tiene que cuidar a sus hijos, vivirá más tiempo. Si un animal tiene que proteger a sus hijos, vivirá más tiempo.

2 Alligators are long-lived.
Alligators live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span.

2 Virginia opossums
Virginia opossums live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span.

3 Monkeys are long-lived.
Monkeys live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span.

3 Virginia opossums
Virginia opossums live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span.

4 Turtles are long-lived.
Turtles live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span.

4 Virginia opossums
Virginia opossums live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span. They live for a long time because they have a long life span.

5 Dogs are long-lived.
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Do you want to live forever? Learn how people in China and ancient Greece have thought about immortality, and witness how animals prolong their lifespans with wild adaptations—like a lungfish entering suspended animation or a tokay gecko regrowing its tail.

DO I HAVE TO DIE?

Do I have to die?

SECTION ELEMENTS

Concepts of immortality

- Mars and Venus basin reproduction
- Lingzhi fungus and tray
- Rhino horn cup
- Daoist immortal figure

You should try to be more like animals

- Howler monkey
- Virginia opossum
- Alligator snapping turtle
- Termite queen and workers
- Mayflies
- Giant tardigrade replication
- Starfish, lizard, and lungfish specimens



How will my death affect others?

HOW WILL MY DEATH AFFECT OTHERS?

¿CÓMO VA A AFECTAR MI MUERTE A LOS DEMÁS?

When we die, we live on in the memories of people who have known us. A death can **challenge or disrupt relationships**, but it can also **bring people together**—to grieve, mourn, celebrate, remember, or be inspired. Well past the end of their time on Earth, the dead influence the lives of individuals, communities, and sometimes entire societies.

Cuando morimos, vivimos en los recuerdos de las personas que nos han conocido. Una muerte puede **desafiar o interrumpir las relaciones**, pero también puede **unir a las personas** para llorar, hacer el duelo, celebrar, recordar o inspirarse. Mucho más allá del final de su tiempo en la Tierra, los muertos influyen en la vida de las personas, las comunidades y, a veces, en sociedades enteras.



HOW WILL MY DEATH AFFECT OTHERS?
Your death will likely be
important to individuals close
to you—and the community
you come from.

¿CÓMO VA A AFECTAR MI MUERTE A LOS DEMÁS?
Si muero, probablemente
seré importante para las
personas cercanas a mí
y para la comunidad de
donde yo vivo.



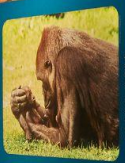
gorillas spend much of their time resting. They are very social animals and live in groups called troops. The average troop size is about 10-15 individuals.

gorillas are great climbers and can move very quickly. They are also very intelligent and can use tools to get food.



gorillas have a very strong sense of smell. They use their sense of smell to find food and to communicate with other gorillas.

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Some animals grieve

Scientists are increasingly convinced that many animals grieve. Elephants, whales, birds, and even some insects have been shown to grieve when they lose a family member or a close friend. They may even show signs of depression.

They grieve in many ways. Some animals may cry or howl. Others may stop eating or become very quiet. Some animals may even die of grief.

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Algunos animales pasan por un duelo

Cada vez hay más pruebas de que muchos animales pasan por un duelo cuando pierden a un familiar o a un amigo cercano. Elefantes, ballenas, aves e incluso algunos insectos han sido observados llorando o actuando de manera triste.

Ellos lloran de muchas maneras. Algunos animales lloran o aullan. Otros dejan de comer o se vuelven muy silenciosos. Algunos animales incluso mueren de tristeza.

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Many people who died in the war were young men, and their families often received a small object as a reminder of their loved one. This is a small object that was given to the family of a young man who died in the war.



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Everyday remembrances of fallen cyclists around the world

Commemoraciones diarias de ciclistas fallecidos en todo el mundo

Small text and images illustrating the theme of everyday remembrances of fallen cyclists around the world.



Many people who died in the war were young men, and their families often received a small object as a reminder of their loved one. This is a small object that was given to the family of a young man who died in the war.





**Living with
Ancestry** is an
ongoing conversation
with their ancestors.

Discover the story of the
Ancestry Project, a collaborative
effort between the National
Museum of African American
History and Culture and the
National Museum of Natural
History to explore the lives of
African Americans in the
United States.

Project Overview

The Ancestry Project is a
collaborative effort between
the National Museum of
African American History and
Culture and the National
Museum of Natural History
to explore the lives of African
Americans in the United States.

Project Goals

The project aims to:

- Explore the lives of African Americans in the United States.
- Share the stories of African Americans in the United States.
- Create a lasting legacy for future generations.

Project Partners

The project is supported by the
National Museum of African
American History and Culture,
the National Museum of
Natural History, and the
National Endowment for the
Arts.

Project Timeline

The project is ongoing and
will continue to evolve over
time.

Project Impact

The project has the potential
to impact the lives of African
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by providing a platform for
their stories and experiences.



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The Ancestry Project is a collaborative effort between the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of Natural History to explore the lives of African Americans in the United States.

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Death—and memories of the dead—shape the lives of the living. Meet the surprising variety of animals that grieve. Examine a replication of one of the earliest deliberate human burials, and understand how rituals help people cope with loss, individually and collectively. Encounter a Day of the Dead ofrenda, where loved ones are welcomed back into the world of the living. “Spark a Memory” of a loved one who has passed and share what you would like to do before you die...or after.

HOW WILL MY DEATH AFFECT OTHERS?

How will my death affect others?

SECTION ELEMENTS

Is grief human?

- Cicada killer
- American burying beetle
- *Thrinaxodon* and *Broomistega* fossil burrow cast
- Animal grief atmospheric photos
- Magdalenian woman replication



HOW WILL MY DEATH AFFECT OTHERS?

How will my death affect others?

SECTION ELEMENTS

How people respond at different scales

- Ofrenda recreation
- Day of the Dead figures
- Oaxacan incense burner and effigy figure
- Colima dog
- Nazca and Wari musical instruments
- Moche drummer figure
- Haida mortuary and memorial poles
- Ibeji figures

How people respond at different scales

- Hopewell artifacts
- Memorial architecture photos

Spark a Memory interactive



**Many of us carry
memories of loved
ones who have passed.**

**Place your hand here to
spark a memory.**

The sound of their laugh
Their special recipe
The color of their eyes
The smell of their hair
Their favorite chair in the living room
The ring they always wore
The walks you used to take together
Their place at the dinner table
That signature dance move
The story they told over and over
The dream they shared



*Many of us carry memories of loved ones
 who have passed.
 The sound of their laugh
 Their special recipe
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 That signature dance move
 The story they told over and over
 The dream they shared*

Place your hand
 here to spark
 a memory.



Coloca tu mano
 aquí para generar
 un recuerdo.

Muchos de nosotros llevamos recuerdos
 de seres queridos que han fallecido.

El sonido de su risa
 Su receta especial
 El color de sus ojos
 El olor de su cabello
 Su sillón favorito de la sala
 El anillo que siempre tenía puesto
 Las caminatas que solían dar juntos
 Su lugar en la mesa para sentarse a comer
 Ese paso de baile que lo caracterizaba
 La historia que contaba una y otra vez
 El sueño que nos contó

Conclusion

CONCLUSION

Conclusion

SECTION ELEMENTS

How to prepare for your death

- Prepare an Advance Directive
- Create a Life File
- Consider organ or body donation
- *Before I Die* participatory art
- *After I Die* participatory art



Before I die I want to marry my dream girl
Before I die I want to have children
Before I die I want to see Aurora Borealis
Before I die I want to Travel to Egypt and fight like Lara Croft
Before I die I want to GET A DOG!!! CATS
Before I die I want to LIVE FOREVER
Before I die I want to Da Everest climb
Before I die I want to BEING COOL GREAT GUY MY LIFE!
Before I die I want to DISCOVER A NEWER WAY TO USE IT I WANT
Before I die I want to LOVE!
Before I die I want to forgive myself
Before I die I want to move to Maine
Before I die I want to Make Sure My kids are Safe
Before I die I want to Write a book
Before I die I want to Run a marathon
Before I die I want to learn Korean 한국
Before I die I want to 집다 ○
Before I die I want to Get paid \$\$\$
Before I die I want to Make a difference
Before I die I want to learn more than 7 languages
Before I die I want to I WISH he famous dancer
Before I die I want to be a famous singer
Before I die I want to swim a Marathon
Before I die I want to Love every version yourself
Before I die I want to Build a family
Before I die I want to Hug my family
Before I die I want to work ~ 40 hr week
Before I die I want to

Before I die I want to ~~miss my family~~ ^{miss my family} ~~miss my family~~

Before I die I want to ~~have children~~ ^{have children} ~~have children~~

Before I die I want to ~~see Aurora Borealis~~ ^{see Aurora Borealis} ~~see Aurora Borealis~~

Before I die I want to ~~Travel to Egypt and fight the pharaohs~~ ^{Travel to Egypt and fight the pharaohs} ~~Travel to Egypt and fight the pharaohs~~

Before I die I want to ~~GET A DOG!!!~~ ^{GET A DOG!!!} ~~GET A DOG!!!~~

Before I die I want to ~~LIVE FOREVER~~ ^{LIVE FOREVER} ~~LIVE FOREVER~~

Before I die I want to ~~Da Everest~~ ^{Da Everest} ~~Da Everest~~

Before I die I want to ~~BRING GOD GREAT GLORY~~ ^{BRING GOD GREAT GLORY} ~~BRING GOD GREAT GLORY~~

Before I die I want to ~~DISCOVER A NEW REMEDY - cure it - cancer~~ ^{DISCOVER A NEW REMEDY - cure it - cancer} ~~DISCOVER A NEW REMEDY - cure it - cancer~~

Before I die I want to ~~LOVE!~~ ^{LOVE!} ~~LOVE!~~

Before I die I want to ~~forgive myself~~ ^{forgive myself} ~~forgive myself~~

Before I die I want to ~~move to Maine~~ ^{move to Maine} ~~move to Maine~~

Before I die I want to ~~Make sure my kids are safe~~ ^{Make sure my kids are safe} ~~Make sure my kids are safe~~

Before I die I want to ~~write a book~~ ^{write a book} ~~write a book~~

Before I die I want to ~~Run a marathon~~ ^{Run a marathon} ~~Run a marathon~~

Before I die I want to ~~learn Korean~~ ^{learn Korean} ~~learn Korean~~

Before I die I want to ~~지피자~~ ^{지피자} ~~지피자~~

Before I die I want to ~~best travel tips~~ ^{best travel tips} ~~best travel tips~~

Before I die I want to ~~Make a difference~~ ^{Make a difference} ~~Make a difference~~

Before I die I want to ~~learn more than 7 languages~~ ^{learn more than 7 languages} ~~learn more than 7 languages~~

Before I die I want to ~~I WISH to become famous~~ ^{I WISH to become famous} ~~I WISH to become famous~~

Before I die I want to ~~be a famous singer~~ ^{be a famous singer} ~~be a famous singer~~

Before I die I want to ~~win a Grammy~~ ^{win a Grammy} ~~win a Grammy~~

Before I die I want to ~~Love every version of myself~~ ^{Love every version of myself} ~~Love every version of myself~~

Before I die I want to ~~Build a family~~ ^{Build a family} ~~Build a family~~

Before I die I want to ~~help my family~~ ^{help my family} ~~help my family~~

Before I die I want to ~~work 40 hr week~~ ^{work 40 hr week} ~~work 40 hr week~~

Before I die I want to ~~work 40 hr week~~ ^{work 40 hr week} ~~work 40 hr week~~

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DEATH: LIFE'S GREATEST MYSTERY

This exhibition was organized by the Field Museum.

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Field Museum – Traveling Exhibitions

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