



A•M•E•R•I•C•A•N
ANTHROPOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

CONTACT:

Damon Dozier,
Director of Public Affairs,
703-528-1902 x 1163
ddozier@aaanet.org

MEDIA RESOURCES:

About RACE: A Public
Education Project:
<http://www.aaanet.org/resources/A-Public-Education-Program.cfm>

RACE: Are We So
Different? Virtual Tour:
<http://www.understandingrace.org/about/virtour.html>

Virtual RACE Press Kit:
<http://www.aaanet.org/resources/Virtual-RACE-Press-Kit.cfm>

Smithsonian National
Museum of Natural History:
<http://www.mnh.si.edu/exhibits/>

2200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22201-3357
Tel 703-528-1902
Fax 703-528-3546
www.aaanet.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2011

RACE: Are We So Different? Exhibit to Arrive at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

This summer, the American Anthropological Association (AAA) invites you to explore the science, history and lived experience of race and racism in the United States. [“RACE: Are We So Different?”](#) AAA's powerful and thought-provoking exhibition, will be on view at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History from June 18, 2011 through January 1, 2012 – one of three traveling RACE exhibits that have swept the nation since its 2007 debut at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

The RACE exhibit uses historical artifacts, iconic objects, compelling photographs and multimedia presentations to examine how the idea of race was created, how race differs from human diversity, and how race and racism shape our daily lives. The exhibit shatters many popular misconceptions – from the notion of sickle cell anemia as an African-American disease to the idea that athletic ability is genetically determined and inextricably tied to race.

“The unique value of the RACE exhibit among others that address this topic,” says AAA Director of Public Affairs, Damon Dozier, “is the wide range of questions it both answers and raises by integrating the lenses of science, history and everyday experience.” Anthropological research shows that race is about culture, not biology, yet the very idea of race continues to play a real and meaningful role in our institutions and everyday lives. This interactive exhibit explores historical and contemporary manifestations of race in schools, neighborhoods, health care systems, sports and popular culture. Museum visitors will also learn how science challenges common ideas about racial differences. Dozier adds, “The RACE exhibit is one big “ah-ha” moment.”

RACE is for learners of all ages and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History has invited input from local youth. Students from schools throughout Washington, D.C. share their perceptions of race through a school locker simulation on display within the RACE exhibit. Museum guests can visit the exhibit during regular museum hours – daily from 10:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Visit the [Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History website](#) for complete details.

- - AAA - -

Founded in 1902, the American Anthropological Association is the world's largest professional organization of anthropologists and others interested in anthropology, with an average annual membership of more than 10,000. The Arlington, VA – based association represents all specialties within anthropology – cultural anthropology, biological (or physical) anthropology, archaeology, linguistics and applied anthropology.