

# GUIDELINES FOR THE DESIGN AND USE OF SCALE LADDERS

## NISE Visualization Laboratory

### DESIGN GUIDELINES:

#### • Ruler

A ruler is not needed to communicate relative size.

#### • Objects

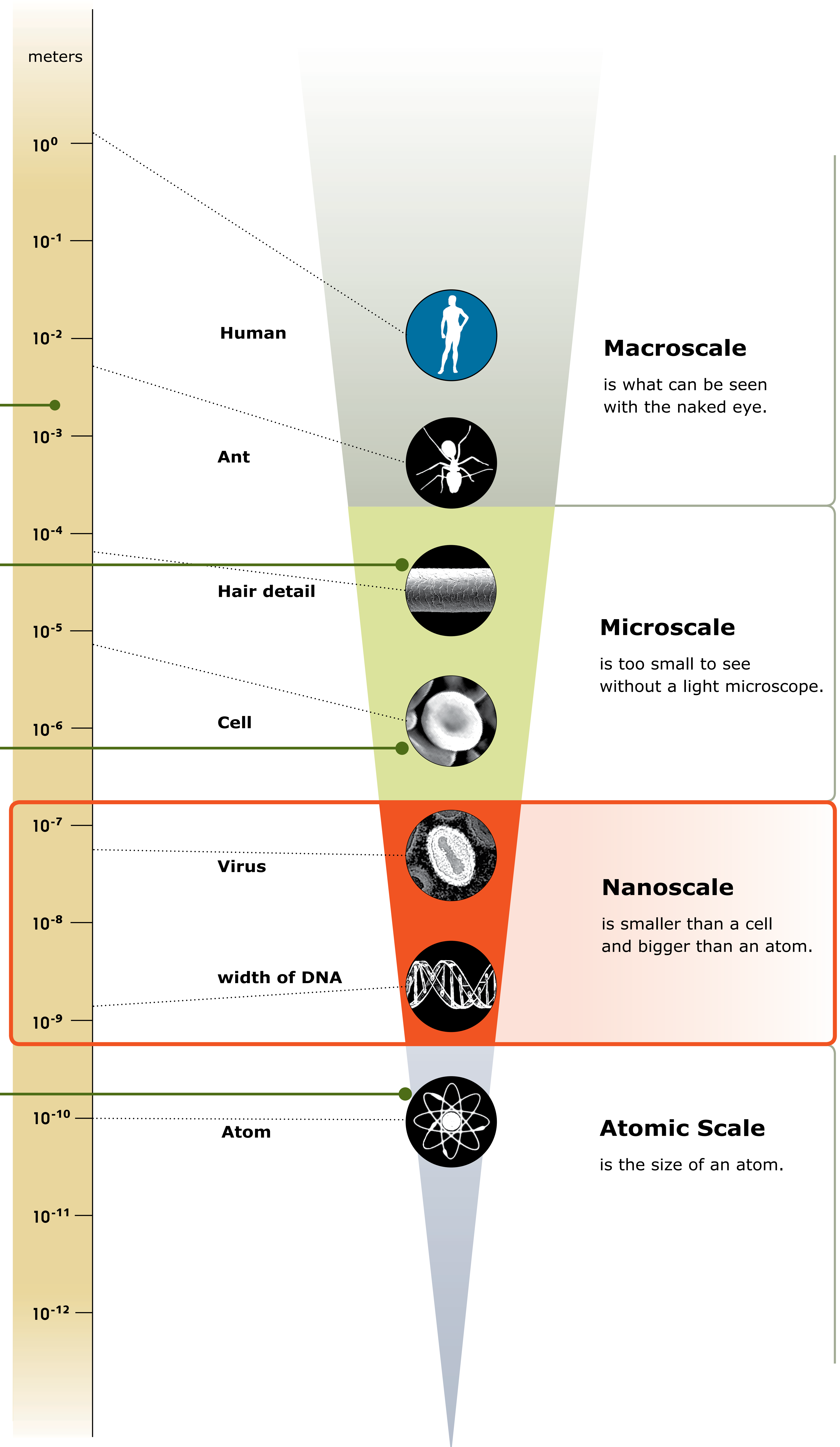
When used in an exhibit label, select objects specifically related to that exhibit, rather than including a variety of objects from different disciplines or choosing more familiar objects that are not directly related to the exhibit.

#### • Scale Domains

Select easily recognizable objects to bracket the area being highlighted in the ladder.

### USE GUIDELINES:

- Use scale ladders to convey the size of objects *relative to one another*, not their absolute size.
- Consider using additional interpretative material in conjunction with the scale ladder to communicate the size of the nanoscale.
- Only use a scale ladder if it directly supports the main message of an exhibit or program.



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