



Pre-Visit/Post-Visit Guide

Lesson Name: Fossils: Discover the Past

Summary of Lesson:

In this hands-on lesson, students become paleontologists as they examine and investigate our fossil collection and learn about the past, culminating in a visit to the fossil pit where they have a chance to discover sea-life fossils that they can take with them.

South Carolina Science Standards: 3.L.5B

Pre-Visit Resources

- **Teacher/Chaperone Expectations:** Please help us by letting us know of any special accommodations for your children prior to the lesson. Your assistance with classroom management and distribution of supplies will also be greatly appreciated. Part of this lesson is outside (weather pending) where students will gently hand-dig and search in our Fossil Pit.
- **Instructions for Teachers:** Please report to the Harrison Hall of Science for this lesson. Your instructor will meet you at the front desk and take your class to the Lab. Students will be working in small rotating groups.
- **Key Vocabulary:** Fossils, South Carolina regions, environment, extinction, paleontologist
- **Key Questions Addressed in the Lesson:**
 - What types of things can become fossils? How are fossils made? What can we infer about the past based on fossil evidence?
- **Content Preview Video:**
 - "What is a Fossil?" (1:50) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgPnnzou0og>

Post-Visit Resources

- **Writing Prompt:** You found coral and shell fossils in the middle of the mountains, far away from the ocean! Draw a map of where you found the fossils including the mountain region and show how far away the ocean is located. Explain what this evidence tells you about the past.
- **Possible Lesson Link:**
 - Research Fossils of Animals that have been found in SC (camels, bison, megalodon, woolly mammoths, and giant land sloths are just a few)
 - The Bob Campbell Geology Museum (BCGM) houses a collection of more than 10,000 minerals, rocks and fossils from locations in South Carolina and across the globe.
 - <https://digitalcollections.clemson.edu/explore/collections/bcgm/>
 - Coffee Ground Fossils: <https://craftsbyamanda.com/coffee-ground-fossils/> This is an easy way to have students create their own fossil models.
- **Video Link:**
 - "Rock Layers and Fossils for Kids" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iYBrhg4op8> (1:43) By studying rock layers we can understand more about earth's landscape from the past. This educational video is for kids in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade.

- **Career Connections:**

- **SciShow Kids “Dig In To Paleontology” (4:11)** Would you like to spend all day thinking about dinosaurs? Well, some scientists do! Find out all about what it means to be a paleontologist!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FjyKmpmQzc>
- **I want To Be A Paleontologist - Kids Dream Jobs - Can You Imagine That! (5:00)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDGekbZcGjU>