

Palaeontology Presentation Centres

Instructions

Dinosaur Trackways!

One important thing that palaeontologists use to study the behaviour of extinct creatures is their trackways! You can learn a lot about how animals behaved from the tracks they left behind.

At this station, you will look at a collection of trackways and try to figure out

1. What animals made the track
2. What they were doing!

Some things to think about:

- What animals do you think made the tracks? Why?
- Were the animals moving slowly or quickly?
- Were they moving together or at different times?
- Why do you think they might have been moving that way?

Once you have an idea about each of the trackways, choose one of them and write a short story or draw a picture of what happened!

Palaeo Art!

While no one knows for sure what dinosaurs looked like, we certainly know a lot. The art of recreating extinct creatures, palaeoart, is an important part of palaeontology. Many paleo artists have helped make new discoveries about the creatures that they draw!

At this station, you will use your palaeontology skills to draw a scene from the Drumheller or Calgary area during the time of the dinosaurs! Some things to think about

- What kinds of dinosaurs would there have been?
- What non-dinosaurs (marine reptiles, flying reptiles, mammals, insects, &c.) would there have been?
- What would the plants have looked like?
- What would the environment and landscape be like?

Be sure to combine the things that we know with your imagination!

Palaeo Puzzles!

When palaeontologists are digging up extinct creatures, they often find different bones far apart from each other. Other times, bones from other animals are mixed in! It can be hard to tell what you are digging up - like assembling a puzzle when you don't have the picture, pieces from different puzzles are mixed in, and some pieces are missing!

At this station, you will be acting like a palaeontologist by assembling the 'bones' (puzzle pieces) that you have 'excavated' (grabbed from the bag). Just like a real palaeontologist, you won't know what you have until it's all assembled. You may have extra pieces and others might be missing!

Once you have assembled your pieces, give your dinosaur a name and draw as complete a picture of your dinosaur as you can.

Bibliography / Additional Information

Dinosaur Trackways!

Phylopic:

Edmontonia: <https://www.phylopic.org/images/af64af4c-5a03-4218-b9fe-440253fd51ae/edmontonia-rugosidens>

Edmontosaurus: <https://www.phylopic.org/images/77d954c4-88d2-4a38-818d-eb5fd7a88846/edmontosaurus-regalis>

Albertosaurus: <https://www.phylopic.org/images/02e30c15-3233-449b-a623-85314f79e870/albertosaurus-sarcophagus>

Turtle: <https://www.phylopic.org/images/b6ecdbb6-1cf1-4361-89b9-8da0aacef3ea/chelydra-serpentina>

Palaeo Art!

Palaeo Puzzles!