



# A Walk Through Time in Georgia GALLERY GUIDE

## What Is This Exhibit About?

A *Walk Through Time in Georgia* tells the story of the chronological development of the Earth, as best we know it, using re-creations of scenes from present day Georgia to provide a link to the past. This exhibit consists of 15 galleries, theaters and dioramas. Georgia's main geographic regions are displayed from the oldest region, the Piedmont, to the youngest, the Coast and Barrier Islands. Each region is paired with a gallery that helps explain the history of that region, where appropriate, or the overall history of the Earth.

When available, a Museum volunteer will greet your group at the Orientation Desk located at the exhibit entrance. Your group will then “walk through Georgia” along the main path that takes you through each of the geographic regions. Use this gallery guide to help you determine which of the galleries and theaters are most appropriate for your students. Look and listen carefully as you walk through the exhibit. Identify the season depicted in each re-creation, search for birds and hunt for the small animals hiding in nooks and crannies.

Enhance your visit to *A Walk Through Time in Georgia* by downloading a GPS-correlated scavenger hunt from our Web site.



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## 1. ORIENTATION DESK AND WELCOME AREA

A time line along the wall explains the intervals of geologic time referred to throughout the exhibit.

## 2. THE COSMOS THEATER

A six-minute high-definition video presentation suggests how the universe began with the Big Bang theory, how the Sun and Earth formed, and how the Earth's crust and seas were formed. This theater has a capacity of 35 people. All ages.

## 3. UNDERSTANDING THE EVIDENCE OF THE BIG BANG THEORY

A four-minute video presentation explains the scientific evidence supporting the Big Bang theory. Recommended for Grades 4-12.

## 4. THE PIEDMONT

This gallery is a springtime re-creation of a granite outcrop in the Piedmont region of today's Georgia. Listen closely to the sounds of the springtime birds and see how many you can find with the help of the field guide located in front of the outcrop. Piedmont means "foot of the mountains" and describes this large region which encompasses the rolling foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Atlanta, Elberton (the "granite capital") and Stone Mountain are found in the Piedmont. All ages.

## 5. THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS

An autumn re-creation of a scenic mountain overlook depicts today's Appalachian region of Georgia. Look for mountain residents such as a black bear, a red-tailed hawk and a salamander. The Appalachians are home to Tallulah Gorge, the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River and Brasstown Bald, Georgia's highest peak. All ages.

## 6. THE RIDGE AND VALLEY

This gallery contains a late summer re-creation of a road cut through today's Ridge and Valley region, which includes Rome, Cartersville and Dalton. Fossils are common in these rock formations because this region was once covered by shallow seas. Look for the "fossils" in our road cut display. Don't miss seeing the red fox, woodchuck and many birds. Look carefully for the bats and the copperhead! All ages.

## 7. LIFE DEVELOPS IN THE ANCIENT SEAS

This gallery features dioramas of five successive geologic time periods during which life developed in the ancient seas. Identify extinct creatures, such as trilobites, and look for creatures that still live in today's oceans, such as coral and brachiopods. A sequence of models illustrates how fossils are formed, preserved and discovered. All ages.

## 8. THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU

A wintertime re-creation of Cloudland Canyon represents this region of today's Georgia. Lookout Mountain and Pigeon Mountain are also found in this region. Listen to the peaceful sounds of the waterfall and the winter birds, such as the cardinal and the grosbeak. Find other canyon inhabitants like the deer and the mink. Walk through a typical limestone "cavern" and trace the dark coal seam as you leave this region. All ages.

## 9. LIFE ADAPTS TO LAND

The main feature of this gallery is the three-sided Infinity Diorama that depicts life in the ancient coal forests of North Georgia. Look for the giant dragonfly and the extinct amphibian, *Eryops*. See the real fossil tree that has partially turned into coal. All ages.

## 10. CONTINENTS IN COLLISION

This video presentation explains the theory of plate tectonics, sometimes called continental drift, and discusses earthquakes, volcanoes and mountain building. A large world map shows the location of the plate boundaries. Recommended for Grades 4-12.



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## 11. THE RULING DINOSAURS

Dinosaurs lived on the Earth for approximately 160 million years. This gallery contains murals, models and displays that explain how dinosaurs lived. Three large murals depict life in three geologic periods when dinosaurs lived on Earth. Sculpted life-size models of dinosaurs fill the gallery, including the large meat eater, *T. rex*, and the plant eater, *Stegosaurus*. A display case contains replicas of the few dinosaur and other vertebrate fossils found in Georgia. Find the replica of *Archaeopteryx*, the famous fossil link between dinosaurs and birds, in the rock formation beneath the Jurassic mural. All ages.

## 12. THE COASTAL PLAIN

An autumn re-creation of the Coastal Plain of today's Georgia illustrates the wide variety of animal and plant life found in the region. It is the largest region in the state and includes all of the state south of a line connecting Columbus, Macon and Augusta. Spot a wild boar and a gray fox and look "underground" for a gopher tortoise in the sand hill portion of the re-creation. Listen to the sounds of the crows chasing an owl above the pitcher plants in the bog. All ages.

## 13. THE OKEFENOKEE SWAMP

Experience the sights and sounds of a swamp in this early springtime re-creation of today's Okefenokee Swamp. Listen to sounds of the alligator and the owls and see if you can locate them. Find other residents of the swamp including a raccoon family, herons, turtles and a bobcat. Displays along the boardwalk describe the life cycle of the swamp, the importance of fire to this habitat and the teeming life below the surface of the water. All ages.

## 14. THE RISE OF BIRDS AND MAMMALS

The murals in this gallery illustrate the wide variety of birds and mammals that developed on Earth to claim the ecological niches left vacant by the extinction of dinosaurs. Look for the actual fossil bones of a giant ground sloth that lived in Georgia over 10,000 years ago and see the nine-foot-tall model that shows what these animals looked like. All ages.

## 15. THE COAST AND BARRIER ISLANDS

This re-creation of today's coastal Georgia contains four distinct habitats: a saltwater marsh, a live oak tree, the shoreline and dunes, and a live bottom reef. Find a fiddler crab in the marsh. Look for the raccoon, owl, and birds in the live oak tree. Listen to the sounds of the seagulls and the waves at the shoreline and see the baby turtles making their way to the water from their nest. Finally, look for the loggerhead turtle, octopus and other creatures that inhabit the depths in Gray's Reef. A beachcomber's shack contains a model of Sapelo Island and explains the sand and water cycles of Georgia's barrier islands. All ages.