



PALEO JOURNEY

Level: **Grades 3-5**Length: **45 minutes**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

What can fossils teach us about Earth's past? How do they further our understanding of the landforms we know today? Through the use of visuals, models, and fossils, students will learn the answers to these and other paleontological questions in this minds-on field trip.

CURRICULUM CORRELATIONS

Students will:

- Compare fossils to each other and the original organism. **S3E2a**
- Understand how fossils are clues to an extinct organism's appearance and behavior. **S3E2a**
- Understand what fossils can teach us about an environment's past. **S3E2a**
- Discuss how fossils are formed. **S3E2b**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What can fossils teach us about Earth's history and its ancient creatures?

PROGRAM VOCABULARY

Mesozoic
FossilDinosaur
ExtinctMineral
Organisms

ASSOCIATED VOCABULARY

Sedimentary
Erosion
VertebrateInvertebrate
Skeleton
ReptileCarnivore
HerbivoreOmnivore
Pangea

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Use information on Fernbank's website to learn about the dinosaurs and other creatures in the exhibit **Giants of the Mesozoic**.

AT THE MUSEUM

Look for the two dinosaurs, two kinds of pterosaurs, and other fossils in **Giants of the Mesozoic**. Count how many other fossils you can find as you explore the museum.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Create a story featuring a creature from **Giants of the Mesozoic**. Research what other creatures were alive in its time period and include them in your story.