

Virtual Field Trip Lesson Overview

Grades
7-9



Dinosaurs: Bones, Evidence, and Misconceptions

Students will explore the changing views on dinosaurs from their early discovery and interpretation in the 17th and 18th century, through the landmark changes in 1964, and into modern ideas about dinosaurs. Students will learn how the

popular interpretation of certain fossils changed many times over the decades and will discover how what were once cutting-edge conclusions about dinosaurs have been proven inaccurate by recent studies.

During this program the presenter will provide a detailed analysis of many of the dinosaurs and fossils on display at Discovery Park of America and provide details about how interpretations of many of those creatures has changed. The presenter will use historic texts and illustrations to explain how the “popular consensus” about dinosaurs has repeatedly changed. The presenter will also explain how specific fossil finds turned society’s understanding of dinosaurs on its head more than once and explain how new fossils and the breadth of bones and traces available have allowed scientists to overturn many mistakes.

Standards Covered:

701.5.8: Make inferences and draw conclusions based on evidence.

SPI 0707.Inq.5: Identify a faulty interpretation of data that was due to bias or experimental error.

7.LS1.6: Develop an argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to explain how behavioral and structural adaptations in animals and plants affect the probability of survival and reproductive success.

8.LS4.1: Analyze and interpret data for patterns in the fossil record that document the existence, diversity, extinction, and change in life forms throughout Earth's history.

8.LS4.2 Construct an explanation addressing the similarities and differences of the anatomical structures and genetic information between extinct and extant organisms using evidence of common ancestry and patterns between taxa.

8.LS4.3 Analyze evidence from geology, paleontology, and comparative anatomy to support that specific phenotypes within a population can increase the probability of survival of that species and lead to adaptation.

BIO1.LS2.5 Analyze examples of ecological succession, identifying and explaining the order of events responsible for the formation of a new ecosystem in response to extreme fluctuations in environmental conditions or catastrophic events.

To sign up for this virtual field trip lesson, please **fill out this form**, or contact us at education@discoveryparkofamerica.com or 731-885-5455.



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