

Museum in the Classroom: FAMILY GUIDE

Expectations & Opportunities AS YOU TOUR the Museum in the Classroom:

- Talk with your child about **proper museum ETIQUETTE**. This is for your safety and everyone's experience. Walk, do not run. Talk, do not shout. Do not touch the artifacts. Stay with your family.
- **There is not a wrong way to tour the Museum in the Classroom**. Encourage everyone to use their natural curiosity as they explore the exhibit. **Take photographs of artifacts and to capture your visit!**
- **The museum is organized according to eras—Paleozoic, Mesozoic, Cenozoic**. The Paleozoic Era was the time before the dinosaurs. The Mesozoic Era was the time during the dinosaurs. The Cenozoic Era is the time after the dinosaurs.
- **READ** the museum signage. It is important to engage in conversations. You'll get the most out of your visit by reviewing the resources together as a family. **What is ONE new fact each of you learned today?**
- Follow your child's interests. Ask him about his *observations*. **Choose two artifacts**. What is different about them? How are they similar? Which is from the older era?
- **IF** you could be **ANY** dinosaur, which one would **YOU** be? Why? **Encourage your family to share details**.
- Enjoy your visit! **ASK Dinosaur George** any question that you may have. He's here to be your guide!

Word Bank

- **Paleontology**- the study of the history of life
- **Exhibition**- a public display of art or other items of interest in a museum
- **Dinosaur**- a prehistoric reptile
- **Extinct**- no longer in existence
- **Era**- a long and distinct period of history with a particular feature or characteristic

Draw Your Family's Favorite Artifact

Artifact Name: _____

As you tour the museum, **encourage your child to read the signage to you.**

Talk together as you tour about new information you learn.

You'll see amazing artifacts like the **triceratops horns**.



Pronunciation: try-SER-uh-tops

Time Period: Late Cretaceous (66 to 65 million years ago)

Name Translation: three- horned face

Known Locations: Throughout Western North America

Size - 30 feet long **Weight** - 4 tons **Diet** - Herbivore

- Triceratops was the largest member of the Ceratopsian family.
- Its horns, located above each eye, are called brow horns.
- Triceratops used its horns to protect itself.

Extensions & Opportunities AFTER YOU TOUR the Museum in the Classroom:

- Talk with your child about your experience at the museum. **What did she like best?**
- **What did you know before you toured? What did you learn? What do you want to know more about?**
- **Explore questions together**. Why did dinosaurs become extinct? What is a carnivore? Did all dinosaurs live on land? Did any dinosaurs fly?
- **Co-author** a book about your tour to the **Museum in the Classroom**. Illustrate your pages with photos from your visit or with drawings.
- Create a **PLAN** with your child to continue learning about dinosaurs. Ideas include visiting a neighborhood library to check-out books and doing research on National History museum websites.

For more resources, visit:

<http://www.klrnconnect.blogspot.com/p/dinosaur-george.html>
<http://klrn.pbslearningmedia.org/>

Who is Dinosaur George?

"Dinosaur George" Blasing is a self-taught paleontologist and animal behaviorist with more than 35 years of study and research. He has spent over 17 years teaching students about the amazing creatures that once inhabited our planet.

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Paleozoic Era
542 to 251 million years

Mesozoic Era
251 to 65.5 million years

Cenozoic Era
65.5 million years to Today

Early Life

- Life first appeared on earth about 4 billion years ago.
- Shallow, warm seas covered much of the continents.



_____ crawled across the ocean floor in search of dead and decayed plant and animal matter.

Texas Sea Life

- During the late Cretaceous, over 75% of Texas was covered by warm, shallow water—the Niobara Sea.
- Flying reptiles filled the skies, fish and Mosasaurus hunted in the sea.



_____ had an upturned jaw which was lined with giant, fanglike teeth.

Ankylosaurus Skull

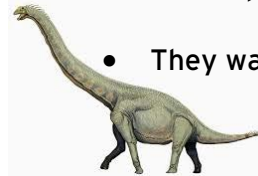
- Ankylosaurus was the largest member of the armored dinosaur family.
- It had an armored skull, a heavy, thick shell on its back, and a massive tail club.



Ankylosaurus was a _____-moving dinosaur.

Sauropods

- Sauropods were long-necked herbivores that had tiny heads, massive bodies, and long tails.
- They walked on all four legs; their hind legs were thick, straight, and powerful.



Sauropod eggs were not much larger than a _____.

Raptors

- Raptors had long and stiff tails, three claws on each hand, large eyes, and an oversized claw on each foot called the “killing claw.” They were fierce hunters.
- Most raptors were smaller than 10 feet long.



_____’s name means swift thief.

Apatosaurus Femur

- Apatosaurus is often incorrectly called a Brontosaurus.
- The ground shook when it walked because it was so huge.



Like modern _____, Apatosaurus’ leg bones had to support its massive weight.

Ancient Elephants

- During the Ice Age, colossal mammals roamed Europe, Asia, and North and South America.
- Paleontologists are able to understand more about ancient elephants than any other prehistoric mammal.



_____ were not closely related to elephants and mammoths.

Saber-Toothed Cats

- Modern cats have pointed canine teeth, but Sabertooths’ canines were flattened from side to side (like a blade) and elongated.
- All cats alive today are descendants of True Sabertooths, including your family pet!



Many people refer to Smilodon as the saber-toothed tiger, but it was more closely related to _____.