



# Life of a Paleontologist

*Sure, you may have heard the word before, but what is a paleontologist and what exactly do they do? Discover more about this field of science, the tools that are used by them, and where they work. Students will learn through hands-on activities with actual fossil specimens and paleontology tools. This Learning Lab includes time in the Little Clint exhibitdig site, but does not include a guided tour through the main gallery of the Dinosaur Discovery Museum. Additional time in the main gallery may be scheduled at the time of booking.*

## About the Learning Lab

Museum Theme: Dinosaurs

Grades: 2nd-5th grades

Duration: 60 minutes

Capacity: 30 per session, multiple sessions available for larger groups

## Goals of the Lab:

- Students will understand what a paleontologist is and what their work entails
- Students will learn about different tools used by a paleontologist and be able to explain their use and function
- Students will understand what a fossil is and how they are identified in the field



- Students will work collaboratively to build critical thinking skills

## **Standards:**

### NGSS

- 2nd Grade
  - LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
  - LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity
- 5th Grade
  - LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
  - ESS2 Earth's Systems

### S&E Practices:

- Analyze and Interpret Data
- Engaging in Argument from Evidence
- Obtaining, Evaluating and Communicating Information

### CCC:

- Patterns
- Cause and Effect
- Structure and Function
- Stability and Change

### Wisconsin 4th Grade

- C.4.1 Use the vocabulary of the unifying themes to ask questions about objects, organisms, and events being studied
- C.4.5 Use data they have collected to develop explanations and answer questions generated by investigations
- C.4.7 Support their conclusions with logical argument