



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