

Prehistoric Fossils

Florida was formed over 200 million years as a result of sand, shell, and sea creatures being deposited on the ocean floor layer by layer. During the Pleistocene Epoch sea levels changed helping to form Florida's East coast. The last Ice Age resulted in lowered ocean levels which led to a broad grassy savannah stretching miles along the coast of Florida. This occurred about 40,000 years ago. Plant eating animals migrated to Florida during this time period. Florida became a winter resort for animals during this epoch and animals advanced south due to ice. The receding ocean resulted in miles of exposed coastal land which became a fertile habitat for many different species. During the Pleistocene Epoch there were more types of animals in Florida than anywhere else in North America.

Objectives:

First Grade:

Raise questions about the natural world and explore the answers to these questions in teams.

Ask appropriate questions in appropriate situations

Compare life in prehistoric Florida with life in Florida today.

Have a basic knowledge and understanding of new vocabulary.

Have knowledge of the different types of fossils found in prehistoric fossil.

Compare and order whole numbers.

Science:

SC.1.N.1.1 Raise questions about the natural world, investigate them in teams through free exploration, and generate appropriate explanations based on those explorations.

Make observations and describe the prehistoric fossils. How many fossils are there? What types? How do they feel? What color are they?

SC.1.N.1.4 Ask "how do you know?" in appropriate situations.

Encourage questions about the fossils.

Social Studies:

SS.1.A.2.2 Compare life now with life in the past.

What types of animals lived in prehistoric Florida that no longer live in present day Florida. Are there any animals that lived in prehistoric Florida that are still found in present day Florida?

Reading/Language Arts:

Vocabulary:

Fossil: any remains, impression, or trace of a living thing of a former geologic age, as a skeleton, footprint, etc.

Paleontology: the science of the forms of life existing in former geologic periods, as represented by their fossils.

Mammoth: any large, elephant like mammal of the extinct genus

Pleistocene Epoch: from two million to 11 thousand years ago; extensive glaciations of the northern hemisphere; the time of human evolution

LA.1.1.6.1 The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly;
What is a fossil? What types of fossils did you see today?

LA.1.4.2.3 The student will write an informational/expository paragraph that contains a topic sentence and at least three details;
What types of fossils were found in prehistoric Florida? Discuss your three favorite fossils

Mathematics:

MA.1.A.2.1 Compare and order whole numbers at least to 100.
Imagine that you have:

70 mammoths
14 mastodons
20 giant ground sloths
17 saber tooth cars
95 wolves
100 camels
56 horses

Arrange the animals in order from smallest number to the greatest number.