

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:

Fourth Grade:

Understand how Florida's prehistoric animals impacted the environment.

Identify physical features of Florida on a map and compare them with the physical features of prehistoric Florida.

Have a basic knowledge and understanding of new vocabulary.

Find an area of a rectangle by applying the formula for area of a rectangle.

Science:

SC.4.L.17.4 Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.

Discuss how some of Florida's prehistoric animals may have impacted the environment.

Social Studies:

SS.4.G.1.1 Identify physical features of Florida.

Identify physical features of Florida today and compare them with the physical features of prehistoric Florida discussed in the exhibit.

Reading and 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.4.1.6.1 The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly;
What was the Pleistocene Epoch? Compare how Florida looked during the Pleistocene Epoch
with how it looks today.

Mathematics:

MA.4.G.3.2 Justify the formula for the area of the rectangle "area = base x height".
Imagine that 10 mammoths were found within a rectangle with a length of 54 feet and a height
of 24 feet. What is the area of the rectangle? _____

