

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:

Fifth Grade:

Understand how Florida's environmental changes allowed some animals to survive but not others.

Use latitude and longitude to locate places.

Look at maps and compare prehistoric Florida with Florida today.

Have a basic knowledge and understanding of new vocabulary.

Use skip counting to identify multiple of 10 to 100.

Science:

SC.5.L.15.1 Describe how, when the environment changes, differences between individuals allow some plants and animals to survive and reproduce while others die or move to new locations.

The exhibit discusses changes in Florida's environment and how this led to different animals living in Florida at different times in Florida's history. Describe one of the changes in Florida's environment and the types of animals that lived in Florida at this time. Do any of these animals still live in Florida? Why or why not?

Social Studies:

SS.5.G.1.2 Use latitude and longitude to locate places.

Use latitude and longitude to locate different places in Florida such as Cocoa and your hometown.

SS.5.G.1.1 Interpret current and historical information using a variety of geographic tools. Also look at maps of the past and compare prehistoric Florida with Florida today.

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.5.1.6.1 The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly;
What is paleontology?

LA.5.4.2.3 The student will write informational/expository essays that state a thesis with a narrow focus, contain introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs;
Write an essay comparing and contrasting prehistoric Florida with present day Florida.

Mathematics:

MA.5.A.6.In.a Use skip counting to identify multiples of 2, 5, and 10 for numbers to 100.

Imagine that there were 100 prehistoric fossils found use skip counting and write down all multiples of 10 up to 100.