

FOSSIL MYSTERIES

Provides New Education Tools Correlated to California Science Content Standards

Up-to-date Scientific Theory

FOSSIL MYSTERIES presents **up-to-date scientific theory** as a result of extensive research conducted by the exhibition's content specialist, and under the guidance of Dr. Tom Deméré, Curator and Director of the Paleontology Department at the San Diego Natural History Museum. With learning being the primary goal of *FOSSIL MYSTERIES*, the exhibition contains specific learning objectives tied to the California Science Content Standards.

Webpages

The on-site experience will be a springboard for further learning through the associated website, which has materials that will help teachers and parents organize pre-visit preparation and post-visit reinforcement learning.

These interactive pages will be a resource for students investigating prehistory and the scientific processes used to reveal San Diego's distant past in the exhibition. Ideas about extinction, earth processes, ecology, and evolution will be explored in online mysteries. There will be links to fresh Field Guide pages for some of the fantastic new creatures featured in the exhibition. The *FOSSIL MYSTERIES* webpages will be more than a companion to the exhibition; they will be a fun and useful stand-alone site for young paleontologists throughout San Diego and beyond.

Workshops, Teacher's Guides, and Programs

Educator focus groups provided invaluable advice in the development of *FOSSIL MYSTERIES*. Eighteen educators serve on the Educational Advisory Committee, spanning the breadth of curricular experience from preschool to elementary to high school, college and Elderhostel. They represent public, private and homeschools as well as after-school, migrant, Native American, and special-education interests. This committee influenced exhibition design and development of education materials.

Workshops will be offered to introduce teachers to the suite of on-site classroom and docent programs, and off-site outreach programs. All of these programs will be correlated to the California Science Standards.

The Museum creates Teacher's Guides—handbooks for teachers who plan on visiting the exhibition with students—for all exhibitions. The Teacher's Guides are free and downloadable from the Museum's website. They will also be available in print. They feature pre- and post-visit activities, as well as a guide to the exhibition, vocabulary, and background information.

Myriad public and school programs are planned in conjunction with the exhibition. They include lectures with experts, classes, scout badge programs, field trips, and long-range expeditions.

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