FOSSIL MYSTERIES

Has Things You Won't See (or Do) Anywhere Else

- **Regional fossils**: All exhibited fossils are from southern California and Baja California, Mexico.

- **Extinct animals**: 75 million years of prehistory in the region: Never before interpreted in illustration or sculpture.

- **Ankylosaur fossil**: This partial skeleton is the most complete of any dinosaur fossil ever found in dinosaur-poor California; found by San Diego Natural History Museum paleontologist, Brad Riney.

- **Ankylosaur story blocks**: Try to arrange interactive blocks in a sensible story line for the life, death, and discovery of a California dinosaur, using clues from the actual fossil.

- **Megalodon shark**: A 34-ft., 2244-lb. sculpture suspended above the Museum's soaring atrium.

- **Megalodon shark tooth fit**: Do the math to decide how big a shark belongs with the touchable bronze cast teeth.

- **Animals on the furniture**: In the Pleistocene (where Ice Age survivors are depicted) touchable animals are scattered throughout on the floor and cases as though they live in the Museum.

- **Half-and-half life-size animals**: Fleshed out on one side and cast skeleton on the other—an uncommon exhibition technique. These include a sea cow, and two dinosaurs—*Albertosaurus* and *Lambeosaurus.*

- **Sea cow**: An original cast of a large sea cow (an extinct relative of the Dugong) exhibited next to a three-million-year-old fossil skull of this toothless herbivore.

- **Horse, tortoise, and walrus fossil skeletons**: Integrated with metal sculptural elements; designed by steel sculpture artist Richard Webber.

- **Fossil aquarium**: A large, floor-to-ceiling, glass-enclosed case where fossil whale skeletons and skulls are on display in front of a 35-foot mural by William Stout depicting animals and plants that lived in a large bay stretching from San Diego to Tijuana three million years ago.

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Add two SDNHM/Fossil Mysteries/Unique features

- **Custom murals:** By world-famous mural artist, William Stout, in California plein-air style, with bold, intense, rich and saturated colors, including an immense 48-foot original depiction of southern California and Baja California, dinosaurs living in coastal habitats.

- **Huggable life-size babies of fossil animals**: A mastodon, a brontothere, and a sea cow.

- **Biomechanics exploration**: Visitors can compare their abilities to those of fossil and modern runners, swimmers, and climbers.

- **Build an animal**: Mix and match body parts of paper maché deer, sea lion, and gibbon while considering form and function in the animal world; for the very young and young-at-heart.

- **Solve the mystery of which fossil is older**: Use a video microscope and match tiny 45- and 42-million year-old fossils with already-dated fossils.

- **Ring of Fire**: Look at Earth from outer space, using LED lights that show the last 100 years of volcanic and plate tectonic activity in the region.

- **Plate tectonic models**: Move the continental and oceanic plates to discover how past and present spreading, diving, and sliding plates change the world.

- **Choose and consider:** Three consecutive scenes from San Diego's fossil history and decide—What killed the Megafauna? Murals by famed artist of prehistory, William Stout.

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