



Up Close and Palaeo Topics

Division 2

Thank you for booking "Up Close and Palaeo" with ATCO Tyrrell Distance Learning!

This document contains a selection of topics for you to share with your class in an effort to focus the questioning your students will engage in during your program. Please select those topics that you feel fit your current curriculum needs best, and then ask your students to formulate their questions based on those topics.

Note: Questions do not need to be forwarded to the Royal Tyrrell Museum. However, please ensure all students have a copy on hand at the time of the program.

1. The Mystery of Fossils: Exploring Ancient Life through the Fossil Record

All that remains of many species from Earth's history are clues left behind in rocks and fossils. Think about what you would ask a Palaeontologist about how living things turn to fossils, different types of fossils, and what we can learn from them.

- Curriculum connection:
 - Evidence and Investigation (Gr. 6)

2. Dinosaur Environments: Prehistoric Forests and Wetlands

The world was very different place when dinosaurs ruled the Earth, with swampy forests where there are now plains, and more moderate temperatures around the globe. Think about what you would ask a Palaeontologist about ecological systems of the past, and how they differ from today.

- Curriculum connection:
 - Plant Growth and Change (Gr. 4)
 - Wetland Ecosystems (Gr. 5)

3. Things with Wings: The Evolution of Flight

From bats to bugs to birds to pterosaurs, many creatures have taken to the air. Think about what you would ask a Palaeontologist about the natural history of flight and ancient winged creatures.

- Curriculum connections:
 - Air and Aerodynamics (Gr.6)
 - Flight (Gr. 6)

4. Ancient Alberta: Palaeontology in our Province

Long ago, Alberta was covered by jungles, swamps and plains, full of dinosaurs and other creatures; along with vast oceans filled with fascinating marine life. Think about what you would ask about Palaeontology in Alberta, and discoveries we've made right here at home.

- Curriculum connection:

- Alberta: A Sense of the Land (Gr. 4)

5. Stormy Skies: Climate Change Then and Now

The climate on Earth is always changing through the ages; gradually shifting from temperate oceans and forests to gigantic ice sheets, and back again. Think about what you would ask a Palaeontologist about the Earth's climate, including its past, present and future.

- Curriculum connections:
 - Waste and our World (Gr. 4)
 - Weather Watch (Gr. 5)