



PEOPLE OF PALEONTOLOGY

Activity Overview

BIG IDEA

The field of paleontology has evolved over the years and continues to grow as more discoveries are made! The paleontologists highlighted on this activity are just a few of the many influential paleontologists throughout history and modern day.

OBJECTIVE

Students will explore different influential paleontologists and identify misconceptions about who can be a paleontologist or scientist.

BACKGROUND

A paleontologist is a scientist who studies fossils and ancient animals and plants.

The paleontologists featured in this activity are just a few of many scientists who have contributed to our knowledge of life on Earth. Remember, paleontologists don't only study dinosaurs, they also study fossilized plants and other living things from the past.

Included here are the paleontologists featured in this activity, along with the associated dates and a source to reference.

Mary Anning (1799-1847) was an English fossil hunter who started collecting fossils as a little girl and sold them to help support her family. She also found the first Plesiosaur and Ichthyosaurus.

For more information:

"Mary Anning (1799-1847)." Berkeley. Web. 14 Apr. 2016.

Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins (1807-1894) made the first dinosaur models. He hosted a dinner party for some famous scientists inside his life-size model of an Iguanodon!

For more information:

Kerley, Barbara, Brian Selznick, and David Saylor. The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins: An Illuminating History of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, Artist and Lecturer. Scholastic, 2001.



PEOPLE OF PALEONTOLOGY

Activity Overview (Cont.)

BACKGROUND (CONT.)

Roy Chapman Andrews (1884-1960) was a fossil hunter and the director of the American Museum of Natural History. He led expeditions to the Gobi Desert where he discovered the first dinosaur eggs and many other new dinosaurs!

For more information:

Boettcher, Kaitlyn. "Roy Chapman Andrews: A Real Life Indiana Jones." Mental Floss. 25 Mar. 2013.

Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel C. Marsh (1877-1992) were both fossil hunters and good friends, as time passed, however, the two became more competitive with the number of fossils they discovered, and battled against each other in the "Bone Wars." Over the course of their lifetimes, Cope found 56 new dinosaur species and Marsh discovered 80!

For more information:

Colbert, Edwin. The Great Dinosaur Hunters and Their Discoveries. Courier Dover Publications. 1984.

Jack Horner (born 1946) is the former Curator of Paleontology at MOR and is best known for discovering the first dinosaur eggs in the Western Hemisphere and finding evidence that adult dinosaurs cared for their young. He is also the technical adviser for all of the Jurassic Park movies and is the inspiration for the lead character, Dr. Allan Grant.

EXTENSIONS

Have students work collaboratively or individually to write a report about a famous paleontologist and/or give a presentation as that paleontologist.

Read *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins* by Barbara Kerley and Brian Selznick.





PEOPLE OF PALEONTOLOGY Museum Instructions

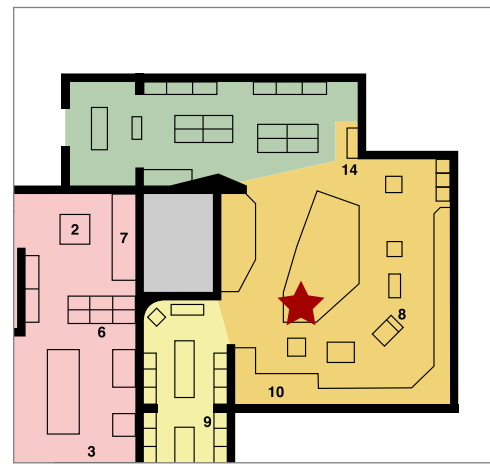
MATERIALS

Student activity sheets, clipboards, pencils (Pens, crayons, and markers are not allowed in exhibit spaces)

ACTIVITY TIME

30 Minutes

LOCATION



INSTRUCTIONS

Without much instruction, ask students to draw a picture of a paleontologist. Instruct students to include their tools and the environment in which they work. Students will complete the entire first page of the activity before discussion.

Once everyone has completed the first page, discuss with your students what paleontologists study – fossils of plants and animals.

Have your students read about, or listen to, brief descriptions of influential paleontologists included in this activity. Walk around the Dinosaurs Under the Big Sky exhibit and find names of the paleontologists that studied the fossils on display.

Using the second page, have your students describe any changes they would make to their picture of a paleontologist now that they have learned more. Have them describe what skills and knowledge they need to be a paleontologist. Finally help students distinguish between paleontology and archaeology. While paleontology studies fossils, archaeologists study human artifacts and remains.



PEOPLE OF PALEONTOLOGY Classroom Instructions

MATERIALS

Student activity sheets and copies of People of Paleontology resource page

ACTIVITY TIME

20 Minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

Without much instruction, ask students to draw a picture of a paleontologist. Instruct students to include their tools and the environment in which they work. Students will complete the entire first page of the activity before discussion.

Once everyone has completed the first page, discuss with your students what paleontologists study – fossils of plants and animals. Have your students read about, or listen to, brief descriptions of influential paleontologists included in this activity.

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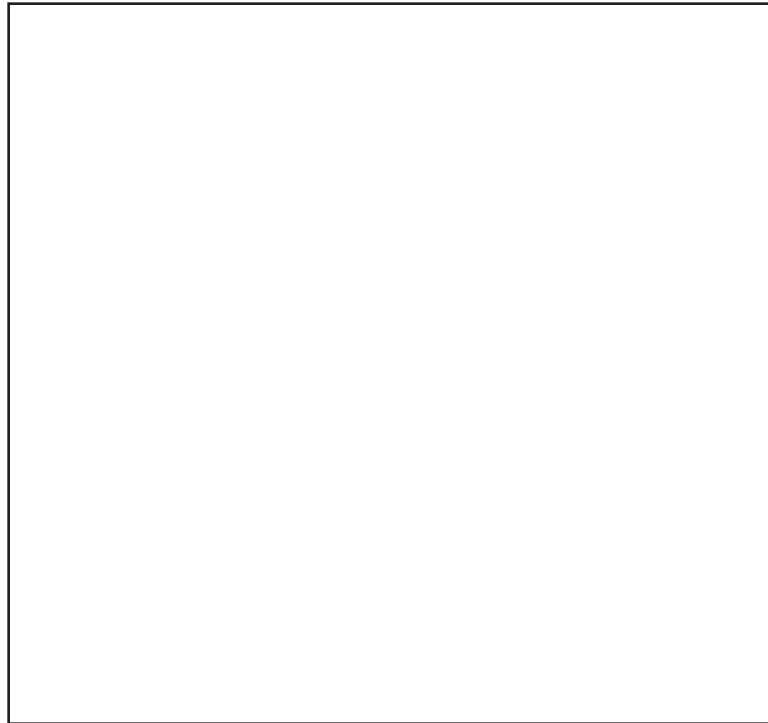
As an extension, students can read more about the paleontologists highlighted in this activity or research other paleontologists.



People of Paleontology

NAME _____

Draw a picture of a paleontologist.



List three tools that paleontologists use.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Where do paleontologists work?



People of Paleontology (Cont.)

Listen to or read about paleontologists who made important discoveries.

Would you change anything in your sketch?

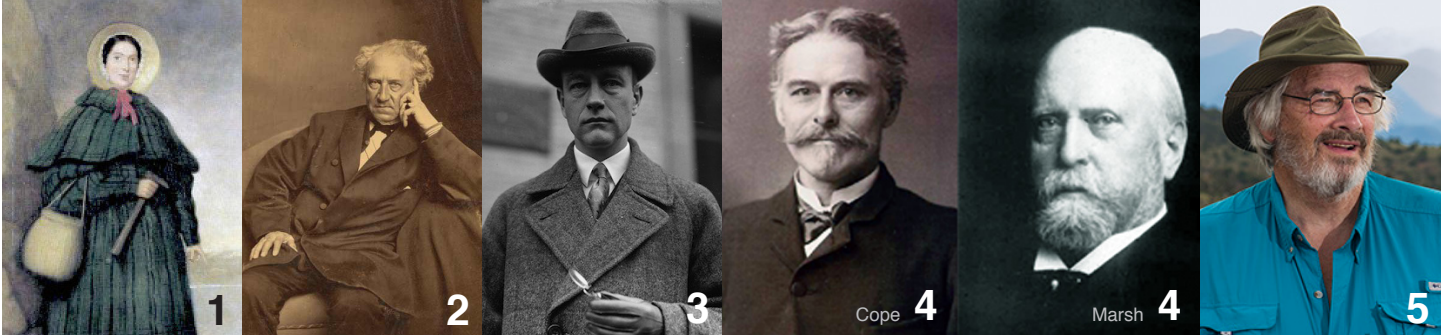
What skills do you need to be a paleontologist?

What about archaeologists? Though paleontology and archaeology are similar, they have a key difference. What is it?



People of Paleontology

NAME _____



1. Mary Anning

Anning was an English fossil hunter who started collecting fossils as a little girl and sold them to help support her family. She also found the first Plesiosaur and *Ichthyosaurus*.

“Mary Anning (1799-1847).” Berkeley. Web. 14 Apr. 2016.

2. Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins

Hawkins made the first dinosaur models. He hosted a dinner party for some famous scientists inside his life-size model of an Iguanodon!

Kerley, Barbara, Brian Selznick, and David Saylor. *The Dinosaurs of Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins: An Illuminating History of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, Artist and Lecturer*. Scholastic, 2001.

3. Roy Chapman Andrews

Andrews was a fossil hunter and the director of the American Museum of Natural History. He led expeditions to the Gobi Desert where he discovered the first dinosaur eggs and many other new dinosaurs!

Boettcher, Kaitlyn. “Roy Chapman Andrews: A Real Life Indiana Jones.” *Mental Floss*. 25 Mar. 2013.

4. Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel C. Marsh

Cope and Marsh were both fossil hunters and good friends, as time passed, however, the two became more competitive with the number of fossils they discovered, and battled against each other in the “Bone Wars.” Over the course of their lifetimes, Cope found 56 new dinosaur species and Marsh discovered 80!

Colbert, Edwin. *The Great Dinosaur Hunters and Their Discoveries*. Courier Dover Publications. 1984.

5. Jack Horner

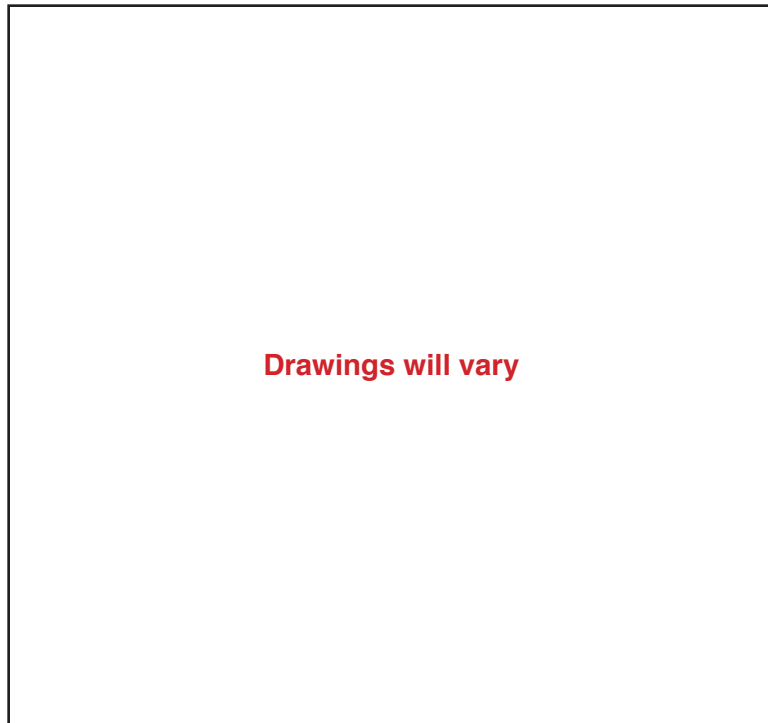
Horner is MOR’s Curator of Paleontology. He is best known for discovering the first dinosaur eggs in the Western Hemisphere and finding evidence that adult dinosaurs cared for their young. He is also the technical adviser for all of the Jurassic Park movies and is the inspiration for the lead character, Dr. Allan Grant.



People of Paleontology

NAME _____ ANSWER KEY _____

Draw a picture of a paleontologist.



List three tools that paleontologists use.

1. _____ **Notebook** _____

2. _____ **Rock Hammer** _____

3. _____ **Other logical answers such as rulers, GPS, burlap, plaster, chisels, jackhammers** _____

Where do paleontologists work?

Universities and dig sites



People of Paleontology (Cont.)

Listen to or read about paleontologists who made important discoveries.

Would you change anything in your sketch?

Answers will vary

What skills do you need to be a paleontologist?

Answers will vary

What about archaeologists? Though paleontology and archaeology are similar, they have a key difference. What is it?

Archeologists study ancient people.

Paleontologists study ancient animals.