

Impact: The End of the Age of Dinosaurs

BACKGROUND FOR EDUCATORS

Overview of Student Worksheets

Using worksheets, students visit four areas in the exhibition to observe the features of different animals from different time periods in Earth's history.

These observations help students experience a **natural phenomenon**: Animals, including dinosaurs and mammals, have different kinds of specialized body parts that help them adapt to their environments. This phenomenon can serve as an anchoring point in discovery and discussion as the students explore the **investigation questions**: What traits help animals adapt to their environments? What happens when the environmental conditions change?

Extension Ideas

Back in the classroom, students apply what they learned about adaptation. Students create a collage of animals and plants that are alive today, including the habitats they live in. Students discuss how these environments are affected by climate change and habitat loss. Suggested discussion prompts: How might these plants and animals adapt to the warming climates, heavier rainfall, and/or loss of habitat? What can humans do to protect them?

Correlation to Standards

This activity supports the following Next Generation Science Standards:

Disciplinary Core Ideas	LS4.C: Adaptation For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.
Crosscutting Concepts	Cause and Effect Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change.
Science and Engineering Practices	Construct Explanations Use evidence (e.g., measurements, observations, patterns) to construct or support an explanation.