Careers in Science

Learn about different scientific careers, and what scientists study as you explore these exhibits about last ice age in western New York, mastodons, and early humans.

Think About It

• What do scientists study?
• What tools and knowledge do scientists need to do their job?
• What evidence do scientists have that glaciers were here?

Path

BOTANIST
• Use the “Changing forests” exhibit to study how forests changed in western New York over the last 13,000 years.
• What differences do you notice between each diorama?

GEOLOGIST
• Use the Mendon Ponds virtual hike exhibit to study how glaciers changed our landscape.
• What evidence shows that glaciers were in western New York?
• Visit the ice cave to study other evidence that glaciers once towered over Rochester.

PALEO-BIOLOGIST
• Visit the animal exhibits (stag moose, mastodon, dinosaurs); which animals once lived here?
• Study the tundra mural by the ice cave. What animals do you see?

ANTHROPOLOGIST
• Use the “Views of Nature” exhibit; listen to each story.
• How have humans and daily life in Rochester changed over the last 10,000 years?

PALEONTOLOGIST
• Dig for mastodon bones in the dig site. What can you find? Watch the video to see a real mastodon dig in action.
• Study the mastodon bones in the case next to the dig site. What differences do you see between the two mastodons?

ARCHAEOLOGIST
• Study the butchering mural.
• What is each person doing to help prepare the mastodon?
• Watch the video of early humans. How did people use animals in the past?

What's Going On?

Scientists are specialists in a particular field of study. Some scientists conduct research in the field, while others study in laboratories, or both settings. Still other scientists are teachers, college faculty, or work for museums and other not for profit organizations. Botanists study plants; geologists study rocks and minerals; paleo-biologists study prehistoric life forms such as mastodons and dinosaurs; anthropologists study human cultures; paleontologists study fossils and ancient life; and archaeologists study ancient human civilizations.
Anthropologist – A scientist that studies human cultures.

Archeologist – A scientists that studies ancient human civilizations.

Botanist – A scientists that studies plants.

Geologist – A scientists that studies rocks and minerals.

Paleo-biologist – A scientist that studies ancient life forms such as mastodons and dinosaurs.

Paleontologist – A scientist that studies fossils and ancient life.

Scientific careers – Fields of work that relate to science.

Specialist – A person that studies or is knowledgeable about a specific subject.