

Animals of the Past

Learn about mastodons, dinosaurs, and other extinct animals as you explore these exhibits about the animals that once roamed and flew over western New York more than 10,000 years ago.



- What was the environment like when these animals lived in our region? How did these animals survive in their environment?
- How do you think these animals became extinct? What events took place? Did humans have something to do with their extinction?



MASTODONS

- What were mastodons?
- Where have mastodons been found in western New York?
- How do we know about these animals?



MAMMOTHS

- What were mammoths?
- How were they different from mastodons?



PASSENGER PIGEONS

- How do we know about passenger pigeons?
- How did passenger pigeons become extinct?



ALBERTOSAURUS

- What was Rochester like when dinosaurs roamed New York State?
- How do we know?



COELOPHYSIS

- What clues do we have that dinosaurs lived in New York?
- What can tracks tell us?



GIANT BEAVER

- How are modern beavers like giant beavers of the past?



How to use this guide

To help guide your visit, we have developed this learning pathway to explore a specific topic using some of the exhibit components.

1. Look up the words in bold in the vocabulary list on the back.
2. Follow this path as you explore the gallery, try a different path, or create your own path and follow where your curiosity takes you!



Many animals that once lived in western New York State have become **extinct**. **Climate change**, shifting of the Earth's **tectonic plates** and human hunting are all causes of extinction of ancient animals. Dinosaurs, giant mammals, and birds all lived here in western New York at one time. Scientists have physical evidence that these animals once lived here. **Mastodon** remains have been found along with human tools and caribou bones south of Rochester in Avon and East Bloomfield, New York. While there is no physical evidence of dinosaurs living in western New York, scientists know that the missing layer of bedrock that would contain dinosaur **fossils** was **eroded** away by **glaciers** and other forces before the last ice age. Many modern animals are related to those that became extinct more than 10,000 years ago. African Elephants are **descendants** of mastodons and mammoths, and moose and deer are related to stag moose.



Vocabulary

Read More About It!

Susan Heinrichs Gray
**Mammoths And Mastodons
 (Exploring Dinosaurs &
 Prehistoric Creatures)**
 Child's World, 2005

Aliki
Wild and Woolly Mammoths
 Harper Trophy; Revised edition,
 1998

E.C. Pielou
**After the Ice Age : The Return
 of Life to Glaciated North
 America** University Of Chicago
 Press, 1992

Ian Lange, Dorothy S. Norton
**Ice Age Mammals of North
 America**
 Mountain Press, 2002

Robert Sabuda, Matthew Reinhart
**Encyclopedia Prehistorica
 Dinosaurs: The Definitive Pop-
 Up**
 Candlewick; Pop-Up edition, 2005

Don Lessem, Jan Sovak
**Dinosaurs to Dodos: An
 Encyclopedia of Extinct Animals**
 Scholastic, 1999

Olga's History PROJECT: Page 1
<http://www.history.rochester.edu/class/rocks/olga.html#contents>

Rochester Geologic Timeline
www.vintageviews.org/vv-tl/timeline/geology.html

Museum of the Earth
<http://www.priweb.org/index.html>

Dinosaurs: Facts and Fiction
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/dinosaurs>

Climate Change - Any long-term significant change in the weather patterns of an area.

Descendant - A person, animal, or plant whose relationship can be traced to a particular individual or group.

Eroded - To become worn or eaten away, such as layers of the Earth's crust.

Extinct - An animal or plant which is no longer living or existing.

Fossils - A remnant or trace of an organism of a past geologic age, such as a skeleton or leaf imprint, embedded and preserved in the Earth's crust.

Glaciers - A huge mass of ice slowly flowing over a land mass, formed from compacted snow in an area where snow accumulation is greater than snow melt.

Mastodon - A very large, extinct mammal (genus *Mammot*), that lived in North America during the last ice age. Mastodons were ancient relatives of African Elephants and Woolly Mammoths.

Tectonic plates - The layers of the Earth's crust (lithosphere) that move, float, and sometimes fracture. The interactions between tectonic plates cause and create continental drift, earthquakes, volcanoes, mountains, and oceanic trenches.