

Information for Teachers

Evidence of Evolution KS2+ session

at Peterborough Museum



Peterborough Museum has an extensive and impressive palaeontology collection and our Jurassic gallery depicts an environment that existed 150 million years ago and the creatures that inhabited it.



Gallery Session

Meet Mary Anning in the Jurassic Gallery and discover more about her life growing up in the 19th Century. Through discussion Mary will explain what fossils are and how they reveal clues about an animal's appearance and habitat. Mary will then lead a practical object handling activity before a plenary which encourages pupils to think about the effects the discoveries had on society and the scientific understanding at the time.

The Colour of Nature

Colour as a form of adaptation is the focus for this session. Pupils will be introduced to different forms of colour adaptation used in the natural world. They will explore museum specimens to see how animals today use colour to adapt to their environment and to maximise their chance of survival and reproduction.



Human Evolution

This hands-on workshop challenges pupils to explore the evolutionary relationships between present day and ancient humans, collectively known as hominins. To do this they will be guided through some of the techniques employed by scientists studying human evolution. For example; observation-based comparative anatomy and, if appropriate, quantitative comparison using cranial measurements.

Paleo Art

Pupils return to the Jurassic Gallery. How do we know what these Jurassic sea creatures looked like? Following on from The Colour of Nature activity, pupils will apply their knowledge of adaptation in the present and in the fossil record to create a piece of paleo art; bringing to life the Jurassic seas whilst utilising and developing their scientific, analytical and artistic skills.





National curriculum links: Science, History, Art.

Learning objectives:

Participating in this session, students will:

- consider how Mary Annings’s discoveries changed people’s understanding of the world in a different time.
- recognise that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.
- gather, record, classify and present data to help answer questions.
- be able to speculate about the possible evolutionary advantages of an organism’s colouration.
- produce their own example of paleo art.
- understand the uses of comparative anatomy in the study of human evolution.
- acknowledge that what scientist believe today about human evolution may change as further evidence is discovered and understood.
- value museums as centres of scientific research.

*“Students seemed really engaged throughout the workshop and produced some really high quality work. The level of content was spot on as students were able to understand the content, use their prior knowledge and develop new skills and knowledge.”
 (Teacher at Hampton College)*

“Each activity really helped to reinforce the children’s knowledge and understanding of what we had been teaching through our topic and literacy work. Lots of hands-on activities allowed the children to really engage with their learning” (Teacher at Oakdale Primary)

Other Information:

Duration:	Full day (10am – 2pm).
Cost:	£200 per group. £180 minimum charge for 25 or less pupils.
Maximum group size:	Maximum number per group is 35 pupils.
Recommended ratio:	Minimum 1 adult to 10 students.
Booking Information:	To book, please contact us by phone or email. When the activities and date are agreed, a booking form and risk assessment is emailed to you. To confirm the visit we ask that you complete the booking form and email it back to us.
A note about behaviour:	Members of the school staff have overall responsibility for the behaviour of their pupils and we expect you to support Museum Staff with this where necessary. Pupils benefit significantly all school staff and adults also get involved in the workshops so please do join in where appropriate.
Contact details:	museum.education@vivacity-peterborough.com
Outreach?	We can offer the Human Evolution activity as outreach. We can also bring fossils. Please contact us for more details and prices.



We are happy to adapt the sessions according to your needs.
 We welcome and encourage pre-visits.