

Grades 9–12 | Downstairs Galleries

1. At the entrance to the gallery there is a sculpture on the wall.

What do you think the artwork represents? _____

2. All dinosaurs went extinct 66 million years ago except for the avian dinosaurs (birds). Look around the CN *T. rex* gallery and gather evidence that *T. rex* and other theropod dinosaurs are related to birds. Here is a hint: can you make a wish on a *T. rex* like you might on a certain turkey bone? _____

3. What area of North America was covered by the shallow, warm ancient sea in the Cretaceous Period? _____

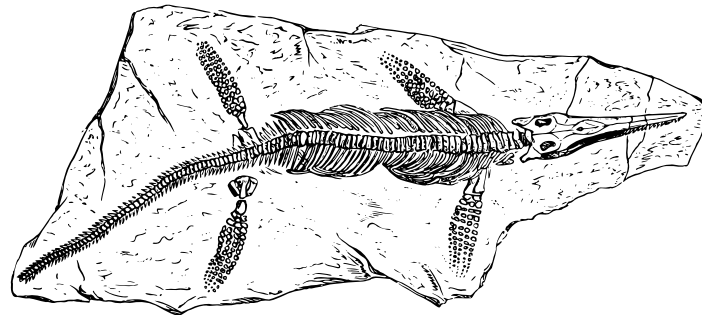
4. In the mososaur diorama, what ancient creature resembles a modern day creature? _____

5. Look at how the colouring of the Mosasaur and the Plesiosaur has been done in this exhibit. Since we don't know for sure the colours or patterns on marine reptiles from long ago why do you think the colours shown were chosen? Why are these creatures darker and mottled on their backs and lighter on the underside? _____

6. If you were a palaeontologist and found the *Thescelosaurus* would you be able to identify it immediately? When palaeontologists uncover a complete skeleton that has remained in the same position as when the animal died, they call it an “articulated skeleton.” Is this an articulated skeleton? What steps would you take to identify this skeleton? _____

7. What has to happen for a bone to become a fossil? _____

8. Why does *Triceratops* have a chunk gone from its frill? _____



9. After the disappearance of the dinosaurs came the Tertiary (now called Paleogene) Period. What natural occurrences took place in Saskatchewan to lead to the growth in size and numbers of the mammals? _____

10. What resource formed during the Paleocene Epoch and what was the source of the resource? What mammal can be seen in the mural from this time period? _____

11. How tall was the early horse? _____

12. The ancestors of the mastodon entered North America 14 million years ago from Asia. How did they cross into North America?

13. How can one determine the direction of ice movement by looking at a drumlin? _____

14. What do all major rivers in southern Saskatchewan originate as?

15. What is a prairie pothole and how do they form? How do prairie potholes impact Saskatchewan's wildlife today? _____

16. Compare the fossil molar from the mastodon (located across from the mastodon diorama) and the fossil molar from the mammoth. How do their differences indicate a difference in diet? _____

