Journey in Time

Design Intent

Time is a difficult concept for young children to grasp. The fact that dinosaurs are amazing is not. Connect with long ago by exploring a dig site that is embedded with fossilized bones and overlooked by some life-sized prehistoric pals. Along with some shovels, put history in kids' hands in this ancient landscape. Breathe life into the past and transport these tiny paleontologists to the age of the mammoths. Give scale to the mighty lizards and magnificent dinosaurs that once roamed the Earth. Survey the landscape, dream of what came before us, and make history come alive with *Journey in Time*.

Technology Components

N/A

Mural Features

- Cave - A cave is a natural underground space that forms in rock, often when water slowly wears it away over thousands (or millions) of years. Inside caves, hanging formations are called stalactites and growing-up formations are called stalagmites; both are formed by dripping minerals. Animals, like bats and insects, use caves as homes because they are dark, sheltered, and stay cool year-round. Most caves form in a type of rock called limestone.
- Woolly Mammoth - The woolly mammoth was a large elephant-like animal that lived during the Ice Age (Europe and North America), most commonly between about 300,000 and 4,000 years ago. It stood up to about 11 feet tall and had long, curved tusks and a thick coat of fur to keep it warm in cold climates. Woolly mammoths were herbivores, mainly eating grasses, shrubs, and other plants found in icy environments.
- Woolly Rhinoceros - The woolly rhinoceros was a shaggy animal that lived during the Ice Age (Europe and Asia), from about 350,000 to 10,000 years ago. The woolly rhinoceros was a herbivore and mostly ate grasses and low-growing plants. Early humans painted woolly rhinoceroses on cave walls, and like mammoths, some have been found frozen in ice, helping scientists learn more about their thick fur and large front horn.



Mural Features

- Megatherium (Giant Ground Sloth) - Megatherium was a large ground sloth that lived during the Ice Age, from about 2 million to 10,000 years ago. It lived in South America in habitats like grasslands and forests. Megatherium was a herbivore and used its long claws to pull down branches and eat leaves, plants, and shrubs. It could stand up on its hind legs like a bear to reach higher food, and it grew as large as an elephant.
- Dinofelis (False Saber-Toothed Cat) - Dinofelis was a prehistoric big cat that lived between about 5 million and 1 million years ago, during the late Miocene and Pleistocene epochs. It lived in parts of Africa, Europe, and Asia, often in wooded areas rather than open plains. Dinofelis was a carnivore and likely hunted animals such as antelope, small mammals, and possibly early human ancestors. It had large, sharp canine teeth like a saber-toothed cat, but its body was more similar to a leopard, making it a strong and efficient hunter.
- Acacia Tree - An acacia tree grows in warm regions like Africa, Australia, and parts of Asia, often in dry, grassy environments such as savannas. Many acacia trees have a wide, flat-topped shape and can grow up to about 20–40 feet tall, though some stay much smaller. They are known for their sharp thorns, which help protect them from animals, and their small leaves and bright yellow or white flowers.

Themes to Explore

- Habitats
- Taxonomy: Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Invertebrates, and Fish
- Transformations
- Movement
- Earth
- Time
- Herbivores and Carnivores
- Fossils
- Extinction

Mounted Animals and Artifacts

- Archaeological Site - An archaeological site is a place where people study remains from the past, such as old buildings, tools, or pottery left behind by earlier cultures. These sites can be found all over the world, including deserts, forests, and even underwater. Archaeologists find sites through surveys (analyzing an area) and measuring and mapping patterns of magnetism in soil (magnetometry).Archaeological sites are protected by the laws of the country in which they are located. Since those laws vary widely, many sites are at risk from construction, illegal digging, and climate change.
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- Dinosaur Bone - A dinosaur bone is a fossilized piece of a prehistoric creature's skeleton, often preserved in rock for millions of years. These bones can range in size from small toe bones to large femurs over six feet long. Dinosaur bones have been found on every continent, sometimes just fragments that paleontologists use to reconstruct entire skeletons.
- Pterodactyl (Hanging Artifact) - The Pterodactyl was a type of flying reptile, not a dinosaur, that lived during the late Jurassic period. It had a wingspan of about 3 to 6 feet, a long beak with sharp teeth, and a lightweight body adapted for flight. Its wings were made of a leathery membrane of skin and muscle.
- California Condor (Ceiling Graphic) - The California condor is one of the largest flying birds in North America, with a wingspan that can reach nearly 10 feet. It lives in rocky mountains, canyons, and coastal areas of places like California, Arizona, and Baja California, often nesting in caves or cliff crevices. California condors are scavengers, meaning they eat dead animals such as deer, cattle, and other large mammals. These birds have black feathers with white patches under their wings and can weigh up to 25 pounds.
- Timeless Tools (Flip Graphics) -
  1) Stone axe or hatchet with wooden handle compared to a modern steel axe
  2) Chipped flint stone compared to a putty knife
  3) Stone knife with bone handle compared to a utility knife
  4) Bone tool compared to a steel head hammer

To Find Out More

- American Museum of Natural History
- Learning Resources: The Field Museum
- Natural History Museum: The Dino Directory