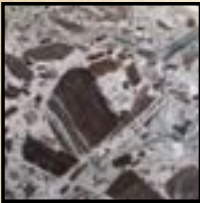




NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



YOUR SELF GUIDED TOUR TO THE FOSSIL DISPLAYS AND MORE

We hope this brochure makes it easier for you to see and enjoy all the exhibits provided by the museum. Included is a map to assist in locating all the exhibits and a brief description of what is on display. The dinosaurs are a major focus of the museum's exhibits.

Please find the Map on the back cover to locate various displays.

LOOK CAREFULLY, at each dinosaur,
but please,
DO NOT TOUCH!

Museum Hours:
Everyday 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Summer Hours (May-August)
7:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Tours available.

*For further information about Western
or the Natural History Museum
please call 307-382-1600*



CENOZOIC ERA

Present to 66 million years ago

- Yellowstone has had 3 major explosive eruptions.
- 2 mill. yrs. Uplift of the western U.S. Buffalo, Bull Lake, Pinedale glaciations. Mammals dominate the land.
- 24 mill. yrs. Sediments from the Miocene and Pliocene (2 to 24 mill. yrs.) is preserved in central Wyoming Sweetwater Hills area. End of the Laramide mountain building episode.
- 37 mill. yrs. Time of major deposits of coal, oil shale, and trona. Heart Mountain detaches from its origin and forms in Bear Tooth Mountains.
- 58 mill. yrs. The Absaroka volcanics erupt. Major mountain building begins in the west.

MESOZOIC

66 to 245 million years ago

- Gray shale and sand cover Wyoming in western interior seaway.
- 144 mill. yrs. Extinction of the dinosaurs. Sundance Sea covers Wyoming depositing sand stone followed by red and green river deposits (Morrison).
- 208 mill. yrs. Dinosaurs found in Morrison Formation Deposition of red sand to form the Chugwater Formation. Early dinosaurs.

PALEOZOIC

245 to 570 million years ago

- Sea deposits phosphates in west, red sand deposits in the east. Global extinction of many marine invertebrates.
- 286 mill. yrs. Wind blown sand forms the Tensleep, Weber, Casper, Minnelusa formations (all oil and gas producers).
- 360 mill. yrs. Shallow sea covers the entire state forming the fossil rich Madison Limestone.
- 408 mill. yrs. Uplift in southwest Wyoming, diamond bearing diatremes.
- 438 mill. yrs. Shallow sea deposits Bighorn dolomite.
- 570 mill. yrs. Marine sea repeatedly covers Wyoming. Cambrian period beach preserves hard-shelled fossils of all phyla in the Flathead Sandstone.

PRE-CAMBRIAN

570 to 3 billion years ago

- 1 bill. yrs. Black dike on Mount Moran intruded.
- 1.7 bill. yrs. Continent to continent collision. Sherman granite intrudes near Laramie.
- 2.5 bill. yrs. First evidence of soft-bodied animals and algae.
- 3 bill. yrs. + Metamorphic gneiss and schist are intruded by granites in the Wind River Range.

1. TRICERATOPS



This rhinoceros-like Triceratops roamed the flat swampy area that was Wyoming 70 million years ago, during a period of time known as the Cretaceous. Wyoming was an enormous tropical floodplain extending from the mountains of Utah to the west all

the way across Wyoming to the coast of an inland sea in Nebraska. The main food of the Triceratops was giant palm fronds and other leafy plants we now find fossilized in the Rock Springs area.

Paleontologists believe the 6-ton Triceratops lived in herds much like cattle and bison do today. The horns and bony bowl were used for protection, however males may have used them to joust for dominance in the herd. The snapping beak was capable of breaking off small trees and other tough vegetation. The Triceratops species became extinct about 67 million years ago.

The first fossil of the Triceratops was found in eastern Wyoming near Lance Creek in 1889. This cast came from the Museum of Natural History in New York, where the original is displayed.





2. PLESIOSAUR



Plesiosaurs are not really dinosaurs but marine reptiles. They swam in the warm seas covering Wyoming from 140 to 70 million years ago, during the Cretaceous Period. The name Plesiosaur means “ribbon reptile” and is thought to be the origin of the mythical Loch Ness Monster. Scientists in the past thought the Plesiosaur paddled through the water with their heads and necks

high above the water. We now know they could not raise their heads more than a few feet above the waves. With an extremely long neck, it could strike sideways at his prey like a snake. Their chief food was fish. The two spiny fish depicted in the display are Pycnosteroides and are commonly found fossilized in the rocks of the same age as the Plesiosaur.

The stomach ribs, called ‘gastralia’ may have helped support the animal’s weight while crossing sandbars, deltas, or resting in shallow water. Plesiosaurs became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous Period along with the majority of other marine reptiles and land dinosaurs. Many partial skeletons of the Plesiosaur have been found in Wyoming.

3. STEGOSAURUS



The name literally means “roofed reptile.” This giant reptile, 8 feet tall, 20 feet long and weighing over two tons, lived at the end of the Jurassic Period more than 145 million years ago. The function of the back is controversial. It is possible the large bony plates were for protection, especially from the Allosaurs, a group of carnivorous dinosaurs that lived at the same time. Or they may have been for controlling body temperature by heating or cooling the blood that flowed in veins just under the surface of a hornlike cover. You can see the blood vessel imprints on the surface of the bony plates. The two sets of spikes on the end of the tail most likely were for protection.

The purpose of the additional nerve center or “brain” throughout the hip area also remains a mystery. It may have helped to coordinate the moving of the bony plates and the animal’s back legs.

The Jurassic period in Wyoming was subtropical and its land surface was low and flat, a partially wooded coastal plain with shallow rivers emptying into an eastern sea. The Stegosaurus could stand on its back legs and feed from trees using the tail to maneuver and balance. The snout was tipped with a horn-covered beak, but the jaws had rather poorly developed teeth. Therefore to aid digestion the animal ate “gizzard stones” which were later regurgitated. These polished stones have been found in association with Stegosaurus’ remains. Its diet included a variety of soft marshy and leafy shrubs. The toes were hoof-like with thick pads. It could probably run at 20 miles an hour.

The original specimen was found in 1891 at Como Bluffs, Wyoming, and is displayed in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.





4. ART GALLERY

The Art Gallery serves as an adjunct to classroom instruction, providing a display area for six to seven shows per year. These exhibits offer the community an opportunity to view a wide range of techniques, materials, and aesthetic viewpoints of regional and national artists.

The Art Gallery is directed by Professor of Art, Florence McEwin, Ph.D. with assistance from gallery interns. For information about exhibits or gallery internship, please contact the Art Department at (307) 382-1723.

5. XIPHACTINUS AUDAX

This monster fish prowled off the shore of the ancient coal-forming swamps of Rock Springs at the same time the Triceratops and the Tyrannosaurus rex roamed on the land, between 90 and 67 million years ago.

Note the size of the teeth and the large jaw structure. This fish ate other fish. Two specimens have been found with 6' fish inside. Its jaw has an extensive hinge allowing the animal to swallow other large fish whole. As the fish decayed and collapsed, the rib bones on the bottom shifted slightly in the soft mud due to the weight of the carcass above.

If you look closely above the center fin on the belly of the fish, you may spot a small tooth on the ribs, and another on the gill cover. These are shark's teeth which settled down on the top of the dead fish and became fossilized with the skeleton. The Xiphactinus (pronounced zif-ack-tin-us) is related to the modern herring,

This particular specimen came from Cove County, Kansas, but fragments of numerous individuals of these species have been found in Wyoming, one just five miles east of where you stand now.





6. SABALITES PALM FROND

This palm frond and accompanying fossil fish date to the middle of the Eocene, about 45 million years ago. During this time the Rocky Mountains surrounding the Green River Basin were slowly rising. Rivers became temporarily blocked, and a huge freshwater lake covered most of southwestern Wyoming. During this time another lake formed west of Kemmerer and it is in this lake's sediment that the palm frond was found. The climate was subtropical

at that time. The largest fish is a *Mioplosus* species, several are *Knightia eocaena*, and several are *Diplomystus dentatus*. 14 genera of fossil fish, including stingrays, are known along with myriads of turtles and various crocodiles. Frogs, snakes, lizards, birds, and even bats have been preserved in its soft sediment. At least four rookeries of a flamingo-like bird have been discovered on Lake Gosiute's fossil shorelines.

7. CAMPTOSAURUS

This reptile lived in the same environment and at the same time as the Stegosaurus, the Jurassic Period, over 145 million years ago. Camptosaurus could walk on two legs or on all fours and weighed less than 1000 lbs. Its horny beak snipped leaves and fruits from trees as it stood on its hind legs. It probably had a slightly bent or crouched walking position and may have been able to run on two legs at speeds of up to 20 miles per hour. Note that both the head of the Camptosaurus and the Stegosaurus are small in proportion to the body. Both had brains slightly larger than walnuts.

The small flat grinding teeth are an indicator of the animal's diet of leafy foods or soft fruits, but not meat. The animal



possibly had cheek pouches to store food as it chewed. Its snout may have been covered with a horny beak or pad and its toes covered with hoof-like nails. There were many types and sizes of this reptile and it is the most commonly found dinosaur in Wyoming.

The first Camptosaur was discovered in 1879 at Como Bluffs, Wyoming, and many have been excavated from that quarry.





8. WEIDNER WILDLIFE MUSEUM

The wildlife in the museum were donated to the College from Rock Springs residents, Roger A. and Jeanne A. Weidner. The Weidners chose to donate their collection, which was assembled over the course of several decades, to the College because they wanted to share it with others. The Weidners believe that “It will help educate the public about these wonderful creatures.”

The museum opened in September 2002 and houses nearly 125 species of wildlife collected worldwide. This fascinating display of mounted wildlife entertains and educates visitors, excites hunters and often motivates interest in the conservation of outdoor resources.

All wildlife in the museum were legally hunted and none of the wildlife was an endangered species when taken. Government wildlife agencies worldwide administered the license applications and issued the required permits that allowed the Weidners to hunt the wildlife in the collection. Licenses and permits such as those procured by the Weidners provide substantial revenue for wildlife management programs around the world. These programs protect animal habitat and support anti-poaching programs and other efforts to preserve wildlife populations.



9. NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

The Natural History Museum displays focus on the geology and archaeology of southwestern Wyoming, but provides for visiting exhibits as well. Past exhibits have housed displays of

past and present artifacts from the Donoza ruins in Peru, the Maya of Mexico and Guatemala, and the Ft. Bridger Farson Eden site of S.W. Wyoming.

10. FOUCAULT PENDULUM

In 1851, Jean Bernard Leon Foucault, a French physicist, by using a heavy pendulum on a long wire, similar to what you see here, demonstrated that the world rotated about its axis. The 237 lb. brass ball slowly swings in the same plane. As the earth rotates, the room you are standing in rotates with it, but the pendulum is free. If you watch closely where the peg on the bottom of the ball crosses one of the floor tiles, and then come back after the rest of your tour, you will discover the pendulum seems to have changed its position to the left of where you observed it before. In fact, it is the room that has changed position to the right as the earth rotates eastward. The pendulum will appear to shift to the left about 6 inches per hour.

If the pendulum were located at the north pole, its swing would appear to make one complete revolution each day. At the equator, the swing would not revolve at all. Since you are standing roughly half way between the equator and the north pole, the complete revolution of the swing takes about 36 hours. The polished white granite slab over which the pendulum swings comes from the core of the Wind River Range and was cooled from its once molten state 2.65 billion years ago. The green stone surrounding it was cut from a great jade boulder found near Jeffery City, Wyoming, and is 2.8 billion years old.





11. ENCLAVE EXHIBITS

These exhibits show some of the most spectacular fossils found in southwestern Wyoming. The right enclave contains a cast of one of the largest and most complete specimens of a Trionichid turtle ever to be found in Wyoming. You are looking at the upper, dimpled shell, called the carapace. Notice that the ends of the ribs protrude beyond the edge, and parts of the lower shell, or plastron, stick out between the ribs. The vertebrae are directly beneath the center line of the carapace. This is a 'soft-shelled' turtle that lived 50 million years ago in a small ancient lake covering the Kemmerer area of southwestern Wyoming. Named Fossil Syncline Lake, it was separate

from Lake Gosiute, but probably connected to it by streams. The Trionichid turtle has a few much smaller living descendants today in the southeastern United States. The small turtle is a juvenile of the same species. Note the three punch marks on the shell caused by a bite from a large alligator. The turtle escaped but hid in the soft calcareous mud and died from its wounds.

The left enclave displays one of the more complete fossil alligator skeletons found in southwestern Wyoming. Others have been found that are as much as 12 feet long. This specimen (*Procaimanoidea*) was found a few miles north of the city of Green River.

12. ENCLAVE EXHIBITS

Pliosauroides, also colloquially known as a pliosaur, are a type of short-necked Plesiosaur. They usually have a small number of short vertebrae in the neck and often have huge skulls, relatively. Plesiosaurs were not an exclusively marine group, and remains are known from freshwater and lagoonal deposits, such as the fossils from the Morrison Formation.

The Morrison Formation was created from deposits from the Sundance Sea, a warm, inland sea that extended from western Canada to southern Wyoming, which advanced and receded during several times during the middle to late Jurassic Period.





The Pteranodon is a genus of pterosaurs (flying reptiles) which are found in the deposits of the Western Interior Seaway that covered present day Texas, Kansas, Alabama, Nebraska, Wyoming, and South Dakota during the Cretaceous period. It was an important part of the animal community, and more fossil specimens of Pteranodon have been found than any other pterosaur, with about 1,200 specimens known to date, many of them well preserved with nearly complete skulls and articulated (intact) skeletons.

Pteranodon was a reptile, but not a dinosaur. By definition, all dinosaurs belong to the groups Saurischia or Ornithischia, which does not include pterosaurs. Unlike earlier pterosaurs such as Rhamphorhynchus and Pterodactylus, Pteranodon had toothless beaks, similar to those of modern birds. This similarity is an excellent example of **convergent evolution**, which describes the appearance of the same biological trait in unrelated species.



Ichthyosaurus communis (“common fish-lizard”) were marine reptiles that resembled dolphins in another example of convergent evolution. During the middle Triassic Period, ichthyosaurs evolved from as yet unidentified land reptiles that moved back into the water, in a development parallel to that of the ancestors of modern-day dolphins and whales. They were

particularly abundant in the Jurassic Period, until they were replaced as the top aquatic predators by plesiosaurs in the Cretaceous Period.

Analyses of the teeth of ichthyosaurs indicate that they had a warm-blooded metabolism similar to that of mammals, giving them the ability to generate their own heat to survive in cooler environments.



13. NUMULITES

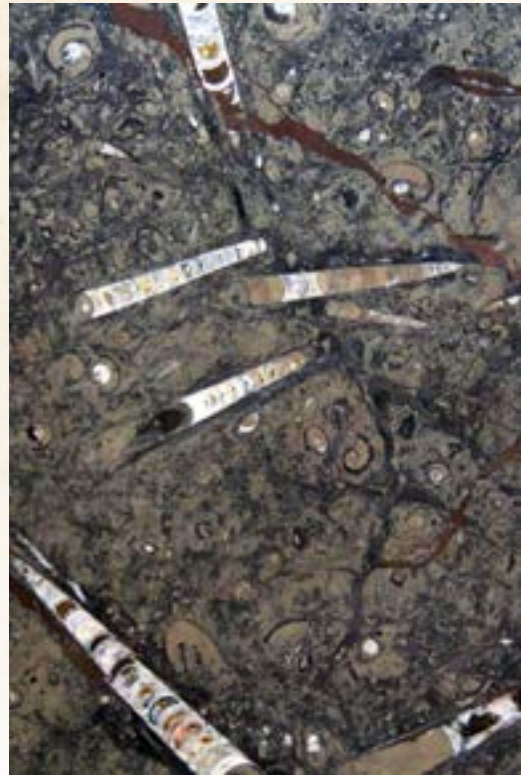
This light-colored slab is what the sea floor once looked like in Italy about 50 million years ago. You have to look closely for it is a limestone entirely made up of the shells of what geologists call micro-fossils. Technically, geologists call this group of shells Numulites. They are the biggest free-floating type of Foraminifera which is a whole class of micro fossils. Others of this same group are so small a microscope is needed to see their features. Note that most of these are the same size, suggesting that they gradually accumulated over time rather than being part of a “catastrophic kill”.

Numulities are made out of calcium carbonate that the animal extracts from seawater. It was soft enough so that the Egyptians quarried large blocks of this material to construct the pyramids.

14. NAUTILOIDS/ AMMONITES

This spectacular slab used to be the sea floor in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco 340 million years ago. Two kinds of squid-like animals compose the dominant fossils here, straight-shelled nautiloids as seen in another exhibit, and coiled ammonites with many chambers. Although they look like snails, they are much more advanced in evolution than snails. Basically they are related to squids with an outside shell.

When you stand back and look at the pattern of the fossils, note that they are all about the same size depending on which group you examine. This means that they gradually grew up and died in the waters above the sea floor, living long enough to reach maturity before they died. Also note that unlike another exhibit, these shells are not oriented in the same direction. This means there was not a current on the sea floor.





15. NAUTILOIDS

The fossils you see in this polished slab is what the bottom of the sea once looked like in north Africa 470 million years ago. The straight-shelled fossils are called nautiloids and are distantly related to modern day squids. While modern day squids have a cuttlebone inside them, nautiloids have an external shell and the squid-like animal lives in the last and largest compartment. If you stand back a little and look at the pattern of the shells, note that they are vaguely oriented left and right with the larger end on the left. This suggests that when each animal died, an undersea current caused this orientation of most of the shells. Note also that the sea floor was covered with many different sizes of shells. This is what

biologists call a “catastrophic kill”, meaning that a whole population of nautiloids was killed at the same time and sank to the sea floor. This could have happened because of a change in water chemistry, a lack of oxygen, a sudden change in the temperature of the sea, or even an epidemic of some nautiloid related disease.

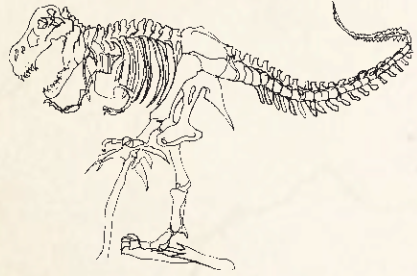
If when you leave the college through the front door, walk partway around the circle and look at the top of the white boulder that will be on your right. Among many other fossils, you will see a nine inch diameter snail shell, and several chambers of a huge nautiloid six inches in diameter that originally would have been seven feet long. It is the same age as the nautiloids currently in front of you.

16. TYRANNOSAURUS REX

The *Tyrannosaurus Rex* was the most spectacular and fearsome predator of all the dinosaurs to evolve. This five-ton animal lived and walked on the rocks you see outside the window behind the skeleton 80 million years ago. Many fragments of dinosaurs have been found in these very rocks.

Some scientists estimate by using various bone measurements that the *Tyrannosaurus* was warm-blooded, could run up to 45 miles per hour, and may have lived as long as 60 years.

There are currently only 11 *Tyrannosaurus* skeletons (cast or real) on display in the world, and of these six are in the U.S.





17. ENCLAVE EXHIBITS

The right enclave contains the largest single slab of fossil fish ever preserved of the mass death layer found in Lake Gosiute in Southwest Wyoming. There are parts or all of 1,095 *Knighthia eocaena*, the Wyoming state fish in this display.

These *Knighthia* were schooling fish that fed on algae, ostracods, diatoms, insects, and other small fish. Here the *Knighthia* are fossilized as a carbon layer within a sandstone mixed with volcanic ash. The ash has been dated and traced to volcanoes that erupted just east of Yellowstone Park. Seasonal algae blooms that change the water chemistry or rapid temperature swings could also cause mass fish mortality. This tiny herring variety is related to the giant *Xiphactinus audax* of exhibit 5.

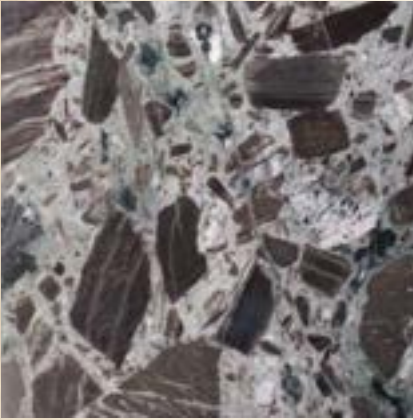
This outcrop of fossil fish covered more than 1 ½ acres, and if the density of fish you see here were the same throughout, 3,630,000 fish died suddenly in one kill event. These fish died and were buried within a day or two, because they did not decompose before fossilization.



TIMETABLE FOR WYOMING

Geologists from all over the United States and the world come to Wyoming to see the geological sequence laid out in road cut after road cut. From the Pre-Cambrian Era 3 billion years ago when Metamorphic gneiss and schist were intruded by younger

granites seen in the Wind River Range to the three major glaciations in the last 200,000 years, evidenced near Pinedale. Scientists have pondered, studied, and marveled at the geology to view first hand in Wyoming.



18. A BRECCIA

Found and polished in Italy, this slab is what geologists call a breccia, meaning a rock composed of other angular rocks—sort of what you would expect if you could fossilize a landslide. This one is different

The pieces you see here are blocks of rock torn off the two sides of a fault line about 5 miles deep in the earth's crust, and then hot fluids seeped up along the broken rock line to weld the two sides together.



19. ANOTHER PUDDING STONE

This polished slab is another “pudding stone,” but you notice immediately that this is not at all like the other “pudding stone” on display down the hall to the left of this one.

This one has a whole different “geology” of its contents than the other one. It tells you that the original formation of the piece of continent that later became Italy is much different than that of Brazil.

20. A MIGMATITE

This marvelous slab shows what happens when sea sediment, deposited next to a continent, becomes dragged down under the continent by movements of the sea floor. The sediment heats up and in this case reaches the last stage before melting.

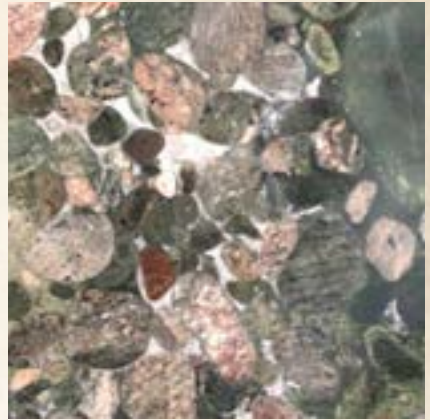
Called a migmatite, you can see how heat and pressure caused the sediment to completely re-crystallize into a half plastic, half liquid state. Some parts were solid enough to break along fault lines, while others melted completely. At that point, it cooled down preserving the last stage of melting.



21. A PUDDING STONE

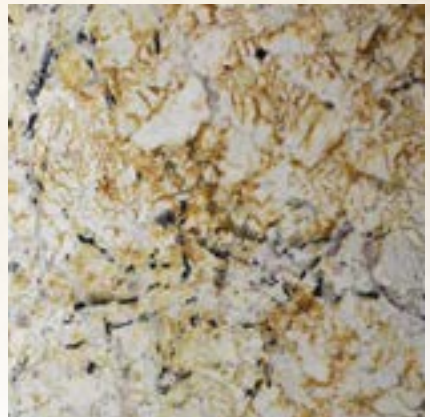
This polished slab has traditionally been called a “pudding stone” because of its likeness to historical British pudding. In reality, this polished slab is a combination of physical and chemical forces that occur deep in the earth’s crust.

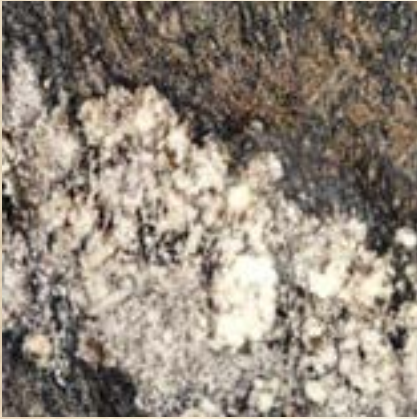
If a break in the earth’s crust occurs some 10 or 20 miles down, the rock fragments on both sides of the fault line become rolled along the break. Molten fluids come up from below along the break line and chemically erode off the originally angular rock fragments, turning them into what we normally would think were river cobbles. The hot fluid crystallizes into the fine grained material gluing them all together.



22. A PEGMATITE

This polished slab of huge white crystals is made of a rock geologists call a pegmatite. It is classified as pegmatite because the mineral crystals in it are larger than one inch. While this slab comes from a rock quarry in the interior of Brazil, its original formation occurred at least 10 miles down inside the earth’s continental crust some 2.3 billion years ago. Since then it has been uplifted and eroded off so that it would be exposed today.





23. SEA SEDIMENT (1)

This polished slab represents some complex geologic history. The darker minerals, which now are all aligned in a broad fold, were originally laid down flat as sea sediment.

Their composition tells us that basaltic volcanoes, similar to Hawaii, were eroding into the sea to form them. The sea floor then moved under a continent, much like the sea floor trench is moving under the modern day Andes. As the sediments were heated up, liquid granite cut across the sediments. Continued pressure caused the region to become folded and this slab is one of the results.



24. SEA SEDIMENT (2)

This banded slab originated as sediment deposited in the ocean next to a continent. Movement of the ocean floor “subducted” the sediment underneath the continent and heated it up almost to melting.



25. COARSE GRAINED PEGMATITE WITH DIKE

This slab is a very coarse grained pegmatite somewhat similar to the other specimen except that when you look closely, you see tremendous differences.

When a body of molten rock cools, it contracts, and huge fractures form. The liquid rock that has not cooled and crystallized shoots up through these fractures forming what geologists call dikes.

26. FOSSIL MAN DISPLAYS

Down the hallway and toward the Geology and Chemistry Departments are cases displaying skulls, bones, and stone tools, demonstrating the evolution of man through early hominids to modern *Homo sapiens*. Lucy, the earliest evidence of upright, bipedal walking in the human line is depicted in skeletal form and illustrated in a painting by Sharon Love.



27. MINER'S COAL CAR

Immediately adjacent to the Fossil Man display is a “fossil” of Rock Springs’ history. This is a miner’s car used to haul coal on miniature railroad tracks up from a mineshaft to the surface. Called a “double flair car”, it would hold about one ton hauled to the surface by horses or mules, later by cables attached to giant winches. This car was used between 1900 and 1930.

The city of Rock Springs was founded on supplying coal to the Union Pacific Railroad, whose tracks were laid on the present route in 1868. Of the dozen or so mines started in the local region, all the coal was formed in ancient seaside swamps of the Cretaceous Period. Triceratops and Tyrannosaurus lived close by. Tracks of the “duck-billed” Hadrosaur have been found in the roofs of several mines.





28. CAVE ART

In the hallway by the Chemistry labs are paintings replicating the cave art of the Upper Paleolithic era in France and Spain. Three of these paintings are from the famous Lascaux Cave in France, and date to about 18,000 years ago. Among them are the famous “Chinese Horse” the “Black Cow” superimposed upon a herd of horses running in the opposite direction, and an extinct Irish Elk called “stag 46”. In the original cave,

some of the paintings are 16 ½ feet above the original floor of the cave, suggesting the mammoth-hunting ice age Magdalenian artists used scaffolding to paint, perhaps like Michelangelo painting his own magic in the Sistine Chapel.

These replications were painted and donated by Rock Springs artist Darryl Newton.

29. EASTER ISLAND STATUE

Retrace your steps back down the hall to the Miner's Coal Car and walk outside the pair of doors. To your right in the middle of the lawn stands a unique statue. Known as a *moai* on Easter Island, this nine ton concrete replica was used in scientific experiments filmed in 1987 by the BBC and KUTV, and became part of a two-hour NOVA program on the culture of Easter Island. Western Wyoming Community College's anthropology professor, Charles Love, teamed up with artist Gregory Gaylor to

design and carve the mold for the casting of this statue. The great mystery of Easter Island has been how the Islanders moved these statues from their remote quarry to the huge ceremonial centers along the coast. Although several different moving methods were tried by Mr. Love, the most effective was to pull the statue forward in an upright position on rollers. Stabilized by inseting the statue on long logs, twenty five men could pull the statue 135 feet in two minutes rolling time. It is the only accurate replica in the world.



THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAJOR DONORS FOR THIS PROJECT IN ORDER OF SUPPORT:

- Exxon
- All 14 Elementary Schools of Rock Springs & two Green River Elementary Schools
- Western Wyoming Community College
- The Wyoming State Legislature
- The City of Rock Springs
- The Joint Sweetwater County Travel and Tourism Board
- As a group:
 - Rock Springs National Bank
 - Northside State Bank
 - First Security Bank
 - American National Bank
 - Key Bank of Wyoming
- Peabody Coal Company
- Pacific Power and Light Company
- Sweetwater County Commission
- Twenty-Seven Attorneys from Rock Springs and Green River
- Jim and Karen Tynsky (Tynsky's Fossil Shop)
- Anonymous
- U. S. West Communications
- Gold Wing Road Riders Association
- Sinclair Oil Company & Little America
- Dr. Howard Eskildsen
- Dr. Roy Boucvault
- *Visitors like yourself*

All of the displays that you have seen on the Western Wyoming Community College campus have been financed entirely by donations. If you would like to buy a postcard, dinosaur toy, or book, please visit the Bookstore.

Wyoming dinosaurs have been “mined” by the major museums and world institutions for over a hundred years, and they continue to be mined. Hundreds of Wyoming dinosaurs gaze at German citizens, but also at English, French, Italian, Austrian, and Japanese. In the United States, Washington, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and a few other cities have the rest. Rock Springs has the largest easily accessible collection of dinosaurs along I-80 from Chicago to San Francisco.

In order to bring Wyoming dinosaurs back to Wyoming, a fund raising project began in 1989 to collect and display specimens native to Wyoming from throughout the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods of the Mesozoic Era. These formations outcrop throughout Wyoming, and date from between 180 million years ago to 67 million years ago. In fact, dinosaur remains have been found in the rocks that outcrop beneath and around the campus. The free-standing dinosaurs are fiberglass casts of the original fossils which are housed in major national museums. Most of the wall mounted displays are actual fossils and date from about 45 million years ago.

GREEN RIVER CAMPUS

Another exhibit area can be found on the Green River Campus of Western Wyoming Community College in the form of a large dinosaur mural showing what Wyoming looked like in the late Jurassic period. It depicts a dangerous confrontation between two Allosaurs and several giant Diplodocus, and displays a number of fossilized bones and teeth belonging to the dinosaurs in the mural, by local artist Sharon Love.

WWCC gratefully acknowledges the assembly and sculptures of the dinosaurs and plesiosaurs by metal sculpture Leland Johnson.

1. Triceratops
2. Plesiosaur
3. Stegosaur
4. Art Gallery
5. Xiphactinus Fish (15' long)
6. Sabalites Palm Frond (8' high)
7. Camptosaur
8. Weidner Wildlife Museum
9. Natural History Museum
10. Foucault Pendulum
11. Trionchid Turtle (5' long)
12. Procambrianodica
13. Alligator (5' long)
14. Plesiosauroidea, Pteranodon, Ichthyosaurs
15. Nummules
16. Nautiloids/Ammonites
17. Nautiloids
18. Tyrannosaurus Rex
19. Mass Death Layer of Fossil Fish (1095 fish)
20. Dinetrotodon Trackway
21. A Pegmatite
22. A Breccia
23. A Pudding Stone
24. Another Pudding Stone
25. Sea Sediment (1)
26. Sea Sediment (2)
27. Course Grained Pegmatite with Dike
28. A Migmatite
29. Fossil Man Display
30. Historic Mine Railroad Car for Hauling Coal
31. Reproductions of Prehistoric Cave Paintings in France and Spain
32. Nine Ton Replica of an Easter Island Statue
33. Used in NOVA Programs

