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The Living World (Life Science)

Essential Question: How do we know extinct organisms ever existed?

| Enduring Knowledge | Science Concepts | GE | Evidence of Understanding |
|--|---|----|---|
| <u>Natural Selection/Evolution:</u> All living things exhibit patterns of similarity in their structures, behaviors and biochemistry. | a. Some kinds of organisms that once lived on earth have completely disappeared, although they were similar to others that are alive today. | 39 | Identifying physical similarities and differences between living and extinct things (e.g., woolly mammoth/elephant; reptiles/dinosaurs) |

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| Focusing Questions | Potential Inquiries/Activities | Resources/Notes |
|---|--|--|
| <p>What does it mean to be extinct?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- An extinct species is one that no longer exists.- Our knowledge of extinct species is based on scientific evidence (e.g., fossils). | <p>How can an animal's footprint in the mud help us understand fossils?</p> <p>Look at animal tracks/fossil prints.</p> <p>Compare physical characteristics of living and extinct organisms.</p> | <p>Visit Albany Museum of Natural History.</p> |