MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Paleozoic Sea Creatures

Target Grade Levels: 3-8

Thursday, November 12, 2020 | 10:10 a.m. MDT and 12:10 p.m. MDT

Overview

Did you know that millions of years ago Montana was home to a diverse array of sea creatures? This time period was called the Paleozoic Era, or Age of Marine Life, and it lasted from approximately 540 to 250 million years ago. Join Museum of the Rockies Paleontology Field Professional Lee Hall to explore strange animals like trilobites, sea lilies, huge armored fish, and dive deeper into Montana's fascinating past.

Student Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Explain that current terrestrial environments where once aquatic.
2. List one sea creature that existed then and is now extinct.
3. Discuss unique adaptations of animals that live underwater.

Standards Alignment

Montana Science Standards

Grade	**Subject Area**	**Content Standard** *Each student will:*
3rd	Life Science	Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing
4th	Life Science	Construct an argument that plants, and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior and reproduction
6th-8th	Life Science	Apply scientific ideas to construct an explanation for the anatomical similarities and differences among modern organisms and between modern organisms and fossil organisms to infer evolutionary relationships
6th-8th	Life Science	Analyze and interpret data for patterns in the fossil record that document the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of life forms throughout the history of life on Earth under the assumption that natural laws operate today as in the past

Next Generation Science Standards

Discipline and Core Idea	*Students who demonstrate understanding can:*
3-LS3-1. Inheritance and Variation of Traits: Life Cycles and Traits	Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variations of these traits exist in groups of similar organisms.
4-LS-1. Structure, Function and Information Processing	Construct an argument that plants, and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.
MS-LS4-2. Natural Selection and Adaptations	Apply scientific ideas to construct an explanation for the anatomical similarities and differences among modern organisms and between modern and fossil organisms to infer evolutionary relationships.