

Fossils In North Dakota

FIND is a newsletter dedicated to helping young readers (in age or spirit) express their love of fossils and paleontology, and to help them learn more about the world under their feet. Each issue will be broken up into sections including Feature Fossils, Travel Destinations, Reader Art, Ask Mr. Lizard, and more!

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<https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil/kids/>



V.I.P. (Very Important Participant)
Nikki Fideldy

My name is Nikki Fideldy-Doll and I teach agricultural education at Center-Stanton Public School.

This last summer you participated in our 2020 digs. How did you hear about them?

This was my second dig. I got started when someone shared the opportunity on Facebook.

We have had a number of teachers join us in the past – what did you hope to learn / pass on from the digs, to your students?

I love to showcase unique careers that seem "out of reach" for students. Paleontology is a career that students may feel is out of reach for them. Showcasing how they can do this career in their own backyard is very inspiring!



Did anything surprise you while digging?

I was surprised that such amazing things were happening just one hour from where I live. It was so laid back and everyone was so helpful! The atmosphere is what makes you want to keep coming back.

What was your favorite discovery?

I discovered a hadrosaurus tendon at the Bismarck dig. I also got to learn how to cast a few larger fossils that were then taken to the ND Heritage Center.

What do you find interesting about paleontology?

It is mind blowing that we are uncovering fossils that are 65 million years ago!

Do you have a favorite dinosaur?

Tyrannosaurus or Triceratops

What advice would you give to any future diggers?

My advice for future diggers is to look at all the sites to determine what will work for you. Be prepared to get addicted and want to participate every year. Sign up to be a dig supporter so you can sign up before the general public to get the best dig options!



Crocodile tooth Nikki found at the Medora dig site

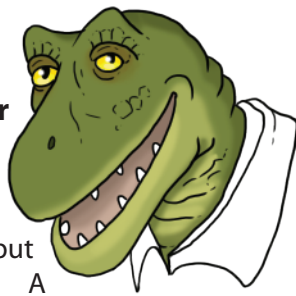
Ask Mr. Lizard

Why aren't pterodactyls or mosasaurs called dinosaurs?

Pterosaurs, mosasaurs, and dinosaurs are indeed all reptiles, but they're different kinds of reptiles. A pterosaur is a flying reptile, a mosasaur is a swimming reptile, and dinosaurs - well, dinosaurs are a little more complicated, but generally they're considered reptiles that live on land (although some did fly or swim!).

The differences are in their anatomy - their bones and skeletons. One big thing to look for is how the rear legs work. The back legs of dinosaurs (not the arms) are positioned right under the hips, so their hips, knees, ankles, and toes are all stacked. This, along with special ankle bones, allows them to move their feet and legs forward and backwards - like how a dog walks - not out to the side like a lizard.

They can all live at the same time however! Much like



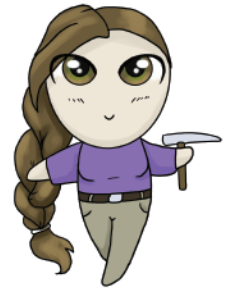
how a cat, a bat, and a whale (all mammals) can live at the same time, but they have completely different styles of locomotion.

Pterosaur rear legs are held out to the side of the body - not like a dinosaur. Mosasaur flippers aren't even legs anymore! So also not like a dinosaur.



Summer Dig Word Find

S G I V U R K Z Y S A N D E C G P T W Z Q R J X T
 V J W V R W T F I Y C J H X D L R J B C V Q Y U Y
 X A Z T B B Z S P Z S S X M A L A C C J V S Y B S
 J C I S P K W T X M R G K Y T W I M U P X A U H M
 I K W I J I T V B U R L A P J S N K V N X M O N W
 R E B J F T C C D G X C D N S D I G G I N G H E X
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 M Q O I Q B Y V T V L B V T N Q M U R B P Y A X B
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 Y Z W S G T C O N C R E T I O N S W U P A N T H J
 D E W W I N D K O M C G S Y H D O A F O M Y T D Q
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 T I H T J R O F K P X W V A C V K P J X B X V H Q
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 G G Y P E K N H H X O O B A C P Z J L G B P I C L
 N E T D C B G C V A K R L X S P B N F L T S S S X
 H D G M K M Q P E S Q Q B D L Y L M M M K U H F V
 C O T A U N N L H L L Y T I H I U A I F V M O B J
 L X C M R O C K O V D G K R Q U A D S B R M V H F
 A H S M K X R I T U W S I T E Y H K Q T S N E G O
 E A R A S H F I S H L X C F O S S I L U E I L E J
 P G G L C K A S J H I J H U C F B M O D H R J L R
 W Q L Q X K C T O B R O V W L S C S R G M X M Q G



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