

## Geological Survey publishes *Prehistoric Life of North Dakota* poster

By John W. Hoganson and Brett Woodward

Educators frequently bring their classes to the North Dakota Heritage Center to visit the NDGS Johnsrud Paleontology Laboratory and fossil exhibits. This has been a popular and important activity of the Survey's outreach program. The teachers have often asked if there is a source of general information about North Dakota prehistoric animals that they could use in their classrooms. In response, we recently published a poster titled "*Prehistoric Life of North Dakota*," Educational Series 30. The full-color poster is 2 feet by 3 feet in size. One side contains images of 47 prehistoric animals superimposed on a geologic map of North Dakota. Included in the prehistoric menagerie are artists' renditions of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, large marine lizards called mosasaurs, a 30-million-year-old saber tooth cat, sharks, crocodiles, Ice Age woolly mammoths and many more. The images are paintings by many of the most well-known prehistoric animal artists. The animals are positioned on the map approximately where fossils of the animals have been discovered.

Photographs and descriptions of about 80 spectacular fossils from North Dakota are shown on the reverse side of the poster. Fossils from the NDGS State Fossil Collection at the Heritage Center and paleontology collections in the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering at the University of North Dakota, the Geology Department at North Dakota State University, and the Geology Department at St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York are included. The fossils are arranged by geologic time period and the formations in which they are found. They range in age from the Cretaceous, about 80 million years ago, through the last Ice Age, just a few thousand years ago. There are outcrop photographs of typical rock exposures for each of the geologic periods. Descriptions of North Dakota's climate and environment for the different geologic periods, with habitat reconstruction paintings done by several artists, are also included.

The Industrial Commission provided a copy of the poster to each school (about 600) in North Dakota. Governor John Hoeven, commission chairman, commented that, "The Industrial Commission is happy to be able to provide a complimentary copy of this poster to each school in our state, so that our children can experience in a very vivid way the incredibly diverse natural history of North Dakota." He went on to say that, "The Geological Survey has done an excellent job of telling the fascinating story of the animals that have roamed our state for the last 80 million years." Commissioner and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem stated that, "Fossils serve as a key to our State's rich history" and that the poster is "an excellent tool to be used by our educators in telling the story of the various animals that inhabited our State through geologic time, from dinosaurs to woolly mammoths and saber tooth cats." Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson reflected that, "Everyone, not just young people, can learn something from this poster. It is a colorful and fun way to learn about our State's ancient past and the unusual animals that once lived here."

We have already received positive comments about the poster from the education community. Gilbert Black, principal at Midkota High School, wrote that the poster is "an excellent representation of North Dakota prehistoric life" and stated that he put the poster "to immediate use today (in his biology class) as we are discussing reptiles and their historic and current place in North Dakota." In a note to the NDGS, Dr. Andrew Hennessey, Kulm High School stated that the poster was "excellent" and will help him in covering fossils in his classes.

The full-color poster (Educational Series 30) retails for \$3, plus an additional \$2 for shipping and handling. A page-sized version of the poster (Miscellaneous Map 37) costs \$0.25. Both are available from the North Dakota Geological Survey at (701) 328-8000.



Figure 1. Front side of the poster.

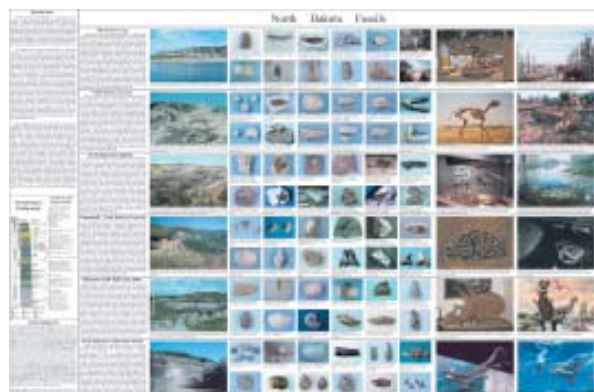


Figure 2. Back side of the poster.