

National Fossil Day 2014: Art Contest

"Fossil Neighborhoods"

About the Contest

The theme for this year's National Fossil Day Art Contest is "Fossil Neighborhoods."

Imagine you could travel back in time with any fossil, and have it show you around its neighborhood. What might that have looked like? What other ancient organisms did it live with? Use your knowledge of the fossil you choose to reconstruct the ancient ecosystem—its home—in which it thrived.

There are many clues you can discover that tell a story about the ecosystems that existed in the geologic past. The rocks tell you about the environment they were deposited in, and the fossils are the remains of the plants and animals that inhabited them!

Use your detective skills as a paleontologist to piece together what your fossil's neighborhood might look like.

Contest Guidelines

The contest is open to any U.S. resident of any age. Entries will be judged by a panel consisting of National Fossil Day partners and paleontologists.

Your artwork should focus on the contest theme "Fossil Neighborhoods". Use the information above and the questions below to get started!

The artwork can be in the form of a sketch, painting, watercolor, or computer-generated image. All artwork must be 2D (two dimensional) and flat.

Be sure to include a sentence or two on your submission form explaining your ancient ecosystem. Questions to help you get started...

What fossil would you like to travel back in time with?

How far back in time would you go with that fossil?

What would that fossil's neighborhood look like?

Would the neighborhood be underwater? In a forest? On the beach? Somewhere else?

Who would be that fossil's neighbors (other animals or plants)?

What would that fossil eat or need to survive?

Do you think ancient ecosystems were similar to ecosystems today?

All artwork should be 11x14" or smaller, or if submitting a digital photograph, the image should be no larger than 5 Mb. Landscape orientation (not portrait) preferred, but not required.

A valid submission will contain:

An original copy of the artwork. Each piece must be original, authentic, unpublished, the sole property of the entrant, and not previously submitted in any other contest. Make sure to include a sentence or two on your submission form (or on your artwork) explaining your ancient ecosystem and fossil neighborhood. Your personal information, printed on either the back of your artwork or on a separate sheet attached to your artwork:

First and last name (as it appears on your entry form)
Mailing address
Phone number
E-mail address

Submissions continued:

A completed and signed entry form. Print out the entry form [here](#) and send it to us when you send your artwork. Entries cannot be accepted without a signed entry form (if under 18, a parent, guardian, or teacher must sign).

Optional - If you would like to submit a digital photograph or scan, send your personal information, along with your attached photo to becbarnes@nd.gov with the subject line: NFD 2014 ART CONTEST. You must also mail in a signed entry form.

All mailed entry forms must be sent to:

National Fossil Day 2014 Art Contest
NDGS Paleontology Lab
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

If you have any problems or questions regarding the art contest, please contact Becky Barnes at becbarnes@nd.gov

When is the deadline?

All submissions must be postmarked by 5 p.m. EST, Wednesday, October 8th, 2014 (one week BEFORE National Fossil Day). Entries postmarked later will not be eligible. ND Geological Survey cannot confirm receipt of entries. Entries will be held until October 15th, after which you may pick up your artwork. Any entries not picked up by December 31st will not be returned.

How will the artwork be judged?

The artwork will be judged by a panel on originality, creativity, quality and, most importantly, relevance to the topic. Submissions will be separated into and judged based upon the following age groups:

8 years old or younger
9 to 13 years old
14 to 18 years old
19 years old or above

Winning Art?

The winning artworks for each category will be displayed in the Geologic Time gallery starting on or after October 15th, 2014. The remaining entries will be included in a digital photo frame.

