



Museum of Natural History

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

How to use the “Places to See Fossils in Colorado” poster

What is on the Poster:

The *Places to See Fossils in Colorado* poster features a map of Colorado color-coded to represent the respective geologic ages of rocks throughout the state (See the “Key to Ages of Colorado Rocks” in the lower right hand corner). The photos of fossils on the left hand side of the poster are also color-coded and keyed to the geologic ages during which the organisms pictured were present in the state (e. g. the Brontothere and Elm Leaf of the Cenozoic Era are shown against the yellow background, the Triceratops Skull and Ammonite of the Mesozoic Era are shown against the green background, etc.). The numbered locations on the map represent museums and sites in Colorado that feature fossils. Those museums and sites are listed on the right hand side of the poster.

The fossils on this poster are from the University of Colorado Museum Paleontology collection. We recommend visiting the Museum’s Paleontology Hall in Boulder, CO to see some of these and many more great fossils.

Ideas on how to use the poster:

- Identify each of the ages of the Colorado rocks on the map (use the color coding) and make a list of the cities located in each of the rock formations.
 - “As you look at the map of Colorado, the yellow color represents what geologic era? What is the age of the rocks of that era? What are the cities listed on the map that are in that rock formation? Can you name some cities not listed on the map that are located in that rock formation?”
- There are seven fossils listed on the left hand side of the map. Identify the locations where those fossils would have been found in Colorado. What other plants and animals would have lived at the same time as the fossils pictured? Were any of the plants and animals you identified found as fossils in Colorado?
- What kind of fossils would you expect to find in Steamboat Springs? What kind of fossils would you expect to find in Ft. Morgan? What kind of fossils would you expect to find in Vail? What kind of fossils would you expect to find where you live?
- The Official State Fossil is the Stegosaurus. Why was the Stegosaurus chosen? What is the story behind how the Stegosaurus came to be the state fossil?
- Investigate the museums and sites in Colorado that feature fossils. What are some of the types of fossils you would find at these sites? What can you do at these sites?

For more information and resources on fossils, please visit the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History’s web site at www.colorado.edu/cumuseum and click on “Programs,” then on the right side menu of the “Programs” web page, click on “Schools and Groups” and then “Fossils in the Classroom.”