

Adaptive Environments Teacher Guide

Field Trip Description

This tour takes students on a journey through the Pleistocene Epoch to discover how South Carolina's landscape has transformed over time and learn whether animals adapted, migrated, or went extinct as the environment around them changed. Then, students will head to the Naturalist Center to model a South Carolina ecosystem using our vast collection of specimens and discuss food chains. **SC State Standards:** 3-LS3-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-1, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-ESS2-1, 3-ESS3-1

Objectives

- Students will understand that an ecosystem is a place where living things like plants and animals interact with their environment, and includes non-living things like water, rocks, and soil.
- Students will understand that different animals and environments occurred in our region's past.
- Students will understand the difference between adaptation, migration, and extinction.

Vocabulary

Ecosystem: a community of living things, together with their environment.

Biotic: anything that is alive or was once alive, like animals, plants, and tiny microbes.

Abiotic: non-living things in the environment, like rocks, water, sunlight, and air.

Carnivore: an animal that eats the flesh of other animals.

Omnivore: an animal that lives on a diet of both plant and animal food.

Herbivore: an animal that only feeds on plants.

Pre-Visit

(suggestions to prepare students for the field trip)

- Introduce or review food chains: [Food Chain for Kids](#)
- Review the vocabulary list with the students.
- Explain to students the difference between weather and climate. Weather being the short-term changes in the atmosphere (like rain or sunny skies today), while climate is the average weather in a place over a long period of time (think tropical or polar climates).
- Watch "[Welcome to the Museum!](#)"
- Watch "[Welcome to Ice Age Carolinas!](#)"

Post-Visit

(suggestions to reinforce concepts learned on the field trip)

- Quiz students on the vocabulary learned at the Museum.
- Quiz students on the different types of extinct animals that lived in our region during the Miocene and the Pleistocene, and the habitats they could be found in.
- Name a few of the habitats found in our region today and the animals that live there.