



EXHIBIT ELEMENTS

The simulation at the core of this exhibit is the most complex simulation of dinosaurs and their world ever created. For the first time, artificially intelligent dinosaurs roam across realistic terrain. The dinosaurs have simulated muscle and digestive systems. Virtual winds circulate digital odors. Plants grow and have accurate nutritional values. In order to prepare for a trip into this exciting virtual world, visitors will need to "dig" through other exhibit components to unlock the secrets of how dinosaurs survived, and thrived.

*Icons representing key educational elements clearly link the subject matter of both the physical and virtual aspects of **Be the Dinosaur™** and reinforce the cyclical flow of learning between the simulation and the more traditional exhibit elements.*

***Be the Dinosaur™** is designed so that time spent in the physical exhibit is necessary in order to make the most of the simulation experience. Taking time to absorb the information presented on Amber Pillars, Rock Formation stations, and other physical exhibit components will equip the visitor to perform well in the simulation.*

Volcano Gateway and Pterosaur

Feel the excitement build as you approach the Volcano Gateway. Glowing streams of lava course down the sides of the entryway, and a pterosaur with an 11-ft. wingspan flies above, setting the stage for the experience to come.

Field Station and Dinosaur Skulls

How do we know what we know? Find out at the Field Station! How were the dinosaurs recreated? How can we reasonably infer the behavior of extinct animals? Life-sized fossil casts of the skulls of *Tyrannosaurus rex* and *Triceratops prorsus* bracket the Field Station, communicating the immense scale of these ancient creatures. The skulls are accompanied by other dinosaur fossils, including a *Triceratops* femur with bite marks that match the dagger-like teeth of a *T. rex*!

Simulator Pods

Take your seat in one of the custom-designed simulator pods and discover a world that existed 65 million years ago. State-of-the-art imaging systems deliver an exclusive High Definition video and audio experience. Simulator Pods are securely networked to allow visitors to experience the Cretaceous world together. Custom controls are easy to use and afford distinct and intuitive control functions for dinosaur limbs, head and neck, jaw and even nostrils! User selectable control options provide easy access for young visitors and visitors with disabilities. An "expert" setting for more precise and detailed control over your virtual dinosaur will satisfy even the most tech-savvy guests.

Rock Formation Kiosks

These kiosks present key information and focus attention on important educational goals in an animated and interactive fashion.

Amber Pillars

Beautiful glowing panels thrust upward from rock formations and provide a visually stimulating overview of the main exhibit topics. Icons quickly identify each topic and relate exhibit elements to each other. Want to dig deeper? Look for the same icons in other parts of the exhibit.

Exhibit Icon Topics:

Icons representing key educational elements clearly link the subject matter of the physical and virtual aspects of **Be the Dinosaur™** and reinforce the cyclical flow of learning between the simulation and the more traditional exhibit elements. Each element focuses on one of the key mysteries of how dinosaurs may have lived their lives. Both physical and virtual components of the exhibit include all of the following:

- *The world around me* defines an ecosystem and discusses the role of plants and animals in balancing the environment.
- *Do I live alone or in groups?* deals with one of the basic mysteries of *Triceratops* behavior: were they solitary or social animals? What is the fossil evidence, what are the benefits and drawbacks to living this way, and how would that affect an animal's behavior?
- *How do I find food?* discusses the ongoing debate regarding the lifestyle of *T. rex*. Was it a hunter, a scavenger, or both? Explore the evidence for and against, as well as the benefits and risks as you try different behaviors and form your own opinion.
- *How do I use my senses?* examines how an animal's senses affect behavior. See how we can determine the capabilities of an animal from fossil evidence.
- *Do I hunt alone or in packs?* explores competing theories of tyrannosaur behavior: were they solitary or social animals? Consider the evidence for and pros and cons of each lifestyle, try each behavior in the simulation, and form your own opinion.
- *How do I find plants to eat?* presents the basics of nutrition and digestion, as well as the dominant plant life as food sources for *Triceratops*. Discover select species of plants, modern relatives, growth pattern, and nutritive value.
- *Triceratops and the lives of herbivores* discusses *Triceratops*, the most numerous herbivore of the time, as an example of an herbivorous animal. Explore the animal's anatomy and what it suggests about possible behavior. Find out about the basics of its nutrition and digestion, and how they relate to modern animals.
- *Creatures that share your world* provides an overview of the other animals (dinosaurs, mammals, reptiles, birds, fish and amphibians) that shared the world with *T. rex* and *Triceratops*.
- *T. rex and the lives of carnivores* discusses *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the most numerous carnivore of the time, as an example of a carnivorous animal. Explore the animal's anatomy and what it suggests about possible behavior. Find out about the basics of its nutrition and digestion, and how they relate to modern animals.
- *Do I defend myself?* focuses on what the anatomy of an animal suggests about how it might have protected itself. Learn about fight or flight, the ways that an animal might defend itself, and strategies for both herds and solitary creatures.
- *How do I stay healthy?* explores illness and injury in the fossil record, and how animal behaviors strive to prevent injury and sickness.

Designasaurus

Experiment with various camouflage patterns at this touch-screen station, changing dinosaur species and backgrounds to create your own custom designed dinosaur.

Dinosaur Safari Jeep

The Safari Jeep takes younger visitors on an exciting "tour" through the virtual environment, touching on the exhibit's themes and asking even the youngest to imagine dinosaurs not as movie monsters, but as living creatures within an ecosystem.