

Detectives of the Past

In past summers, you have been able to go hiking through several of Colorado's public lands. Certainly, you have found peculiar items which didn't seem like they belonged in the landscapes. Our working objective is to allow you to be able to understand and explain those items as you encounter them in the same types of landscapes.

Last summer, I visited several of places with these peculiar items in Colorado. When I visited the National Monument in Florissant, I saw large rock formations which looked like they had grown out of the ground. And, when I was hiking over the hogback near Morrison, just a few miles away from here, I saw footprints which looked like they were made by some 3-toed, cartoon animal...in solid rock. Then, I was able to travel to the National Monument in Northwest Colorado. There seemed to be several animal skeletons trapped although the skeletons didn't look like they came from any animals I've seen in the zoo...not exactly, anyhow.

Where did the tracks and bones come from? What could have been from and what left them in those places? And, why did they all look like or were in solid rock?

On top of that, a ranger told me Colorado was once covered by oceans and large riparian habitats. How did she know?

NGSS STANDARDS

3-LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity
3-LS4-1 Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms in which they lived long ago.

STEM INTEGRATION

Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions

Use evidence to construct an explanation.

Engaging in Arguments from Evidence

Construct an argument from evidence.

