The Museum of the Earth is a public education venue of the Paleontological Research Institution, affiliated with Cornell University. We offer a variety of programs and tours suitable for different grades or age groups.

To schedule tours, programs, or group visits contact the

**Museum Education Manager**

[education@museumoftheearth.org](mailto:education@museumoftheearth.org)

**607.273.6623 x 113**

To qualify for our **reduced group admission rates**, reservations are required for groups of 10 or more. The group must also pay in one transaction to receive these group rates.

We value our groups’ experience. To ensure the best visit, the Museum limits the group size to fewer than 100 per day. All programs must be scheduled a minimum of 2 weeks in advance. We will work to accommodate any class size, but hands-on presentations and tours are most effective with **25 or fewer** participants.

**MUSEUM GROUP ADMISSION FEES**

- $3/youth (4—17yrs)
- $7/adult
- $4/Senior (over 65yr) or Student (with college ID)

1 adult chaperone free/10 youth. The Museum requires a rate of at least 1 adult per 10 youth.

Offsite programs available: Program fee + travel

Custom programs available - Please ask.
Subject-specific tours and programs may be arranged to help meet special interests and key curriculum standards. Most program limits to 25 or fewer students unless noted.

**Museum of the Earth Tours** [all ages] 30—60 minutes

How has life and climate changed over time? How has the geologic past influenced the current landscape of central New York? Museum tours will lead you on a journey through time, highlighting key concepts in the Museum and some of the most spectacular specimens in the exhibits.

A 30 minute tour may be added to a program to combine the Museum exhibits and program topics for greater comprehension of a subject.

**Ancient Seas Over New York** [4th - 7th grade] 30 or 45 minutes

Why do we find fossil shells, corals, salt, and wave ripples in the rocks of Upstate New York? By examining local rocks and fossils students will be able to virtually swim in ancient seas and use this evidence to create a geologic time scale, putting events in Earth history into perspective.

**Coral Reefs** [1st — 6th grade] 30 or 45 minutes | **Ocean Reefs** [7th — 12th grade] 45—60 minutes

Is coral a plant or animal? What other animals live in ocean reefs? Students will investigate the delicate balance among life in a reef and the struggle of todays reefs. Through examining fossils and viewing the Museum coral tanks, students will understand the important place coral & reefs have on Earth. The 60 minute program finishes with a 15 minute “reef” evolution tour to the Museum’s coral aquaria.

**Dinosaur Science**

**Dinosaur Stories and Science** [preK — 2nd grade] 30 minutes

**Uncovering the Past with Fossils** [3rd—5th grade- can be adapted for older students] 45 minutes

What are the differences between T. rex and Camarasaurus teeth, dinosaur footprints or trackways? Using deductive reasoning students will take clues from fossils to reconstruct dinosaurs and their habits. Students learn to separate fact from fantasy by discovering how paleontologists use the principles of the scientific process in their work.

**Glaciers in New York** [3rd – 5th grade] 30 minutes | **Ice Age Life** [6th — 12th grade] 30 minutes

What kinds of creatures might you find living near a glacier? What is a glacier and how do they move? What do they leave behind? What can mastodon fossils tell us about life 12,000 years ago in New York State? How were regional lakes and gorges formed? By touching mastodon teeth and other ice age fossils, examining colorful erratics, and seeing how glaciers flow students will explore a period of New York history shaped by climate change. Discover how glaciers shaped the landscape in your backyard!

**New York State Geologic History for Earth Science Students** [8th—9th grade] 45 minutes

What types of rocks are found in our region? What do they have to do with Ice Ages and Ancient Seas? Drawing on PRI’s spectacular rock and fossil collection as well as the New York State Earth Science Reference Tables, this program for 8th and 9th grade Earth science students brings the geologic history of our region to life.

**Trees: the Carbon Storage Experts— a Climate Change Solution** [4th—8th grade] 30 minutes

In this program students will learn about how excess carbon dioxide in our atmosphere from burning fossil fuels is warming our planet, and how trees can contribute to reducing future warming. Students will participate in a hands-on activity to measure the size of trees and determine how much carbon dioxide they have pulled in from the air over their lifetime. We will then put this in context by looking at how much carbon dioxide we release into the atmosphere through common activities such as driving or running appliances.

**The Field Experience** [all ages]

Experience geology first hand! Take a trip with your class to one of Ithaca’s beautiful gorges to discover how the ocean that covered central New York hundreds of millions of years ago and the glaciers recently affected our land. Have PRI’s knowledgeable staff explain the geology during an Interpretive Hike.
Programs for Pre K - 2nd grade

Coral Reefs  [30 minute program] {class limit - 20 or fewer}
Dinosaur Stories and Science  [30 minute program] {class limit - 20 or fewer}
Ice Age Stories of New York  [30 minute program] {class limit - 20 or fewer}
New York Fossils  (ancient seas program with stories) [30 minute program] {class limit - 20 or fewer}
The Field Experience  - hike and explore a local gorge {size limit to amount of chaperones}

Programs for grades 3 - 5

Museum of the Earth Tours  [30—60 minutes] {tour limit - 20 or fewer}
Ancient Seas Over New York  [30 minute program] {class limit - 25 or fewer}
Coral Reefs  [30 minute program] {class limit - 25 or fewer}
Dinosaur Science: Uncovering the Past with Fossils  [45 minutes program] {class limit - 30 or fewer}
Glaciers in New York  [30 minute program] {class limit - 25 or fewer}
Trees: the Carbon Storage Experts  [30 minute program] {class limit - 25 or fewer}
The Field Experience  - hike and explore a local gorge {size limit to amount of chaperones}

Programs for Middle School

Museum of the Earth Tours  30—60 minutes {tour limit - 20 or fewer}
Ancient Seas Over New York  [30 or 45 minute program] {class limit - 25 or fewer}
Ocean Reefs  [30 minute program] {class limit - 25 or fewer}
Dinosaur Science : Uncovering the Past with Fossils  [45 minute program]
Ice Age Life  [30 minutes]
New York State Geologic History for Earth Science Students  [45 minute program]
Trees: the Carbon Storage Experts– a Climate Change Solution  [30 minute program]
The Field Experience  - hike and explore a local gorge {size limit to amount of chaperones}
Custom Programming: Subject-specific tours and programs may be arranged to help meet special interests and key curriculum standards.

Museum of the Earth Tours [30—60 minutes] (expect about 45—60 minutes for a tour of the collections)
Guided tours - Of permanent and special exhibits ($50—100 each) (20 or fewer students per tour)
Of PRI’s Research Collection ($100 each | limit of fewer than 10 students per tour)
Museum tours will lead you on a journey through time, highlighting key concepts in the Museum and some of the most spectacular specimens in the exhibits. How has life or climate changed over time? How has the geologic past influenced the current landscape of central New York? During a Collections tour you get to see behind the scenes into where PRI does its research and carefully curates over 3 million fossil and recent specimens.

Dinosaur Science: Uncovering the Past [45—60 minutes] ($75—100 each program)
Using deductive reasoning students will take clues from fossils to reconstruct dinosaurs and ancient habitats. Students learn to separate fact from fantasy by discovering how paleontologists use the principles of the scientific process in their work. Working through a dinosaur trackway, students learn about inference and prediction, as well as test there ability to analyze dinosaur fossils.

Ocean Reefs [45—60 minutes] ($75-100 each program)
Is coral a plant or animal? What other animals live in ocean reefs? Students will investigate the delicate balance among life in a reef and the struggle of todays reefs. Through examining fossils and viewing the Museum coral tanks, students will understand the important place coral & reefs have on Earth. The 60 minute program finishes with a 15 minute “reef” evolution tour to the Museum’s coral aquaria.

New York State Geologic History for Earth Science Students [30-45 minutes] ($50—75 each)
What types of rocks are found in our region? What do they have to do with Ice Ages and Ancient Seas? Drawing on PRI’s spectacular rock and fossil collection as well as the New York State Earth Science Reference Tables, this program for 8th and 9th grade Earth science students brings the geologic history of our region to life. This can be combined with a NYS geology tour of the Museum (+ $50)

NY Life in the Pleistocene [6th —12th grade] 30—45 minutes ($50—75 each program)
By touching mastodon teeth and other ice age fossils, examining colorful erratics, and seeing how glaciers flow students will explore a period of New York history shaped by climate change. Discover how glaciers shaped the landscape in your backyard! What kinds of creatures might you find living near a glacier? What is a glacier and how do they move? What can mastodon fossils tell us about life 12,000 years ago in New York State?

Trees: the carbon storage experts– a climate change solution [30 minutes] ($50 each)
Climate change is one of the greatest human challenges of the 21st century, and students need to learn about solutions. In this program students will learn about how excess carbon dioxide in our atmosphere from burning fossil fuels is warming our planet, and how trees can contribute to reducing future warming. Students will participate in a hands-on activity to measure the size of trees and determine how much carbon dioxide they have pulled in from the air over their lifetime. We will then put this in context by looking at how much carbon dioxide we release into the atmosphere through common activities such as driving or running appliances.

The Field Experience [all ages] ($100/hike + $25 travel fee)
Experience geology first hand! Take a trip with your class to one of Ithaca’s beautiful gorges to discover how the ocean that covered central New York hundreds of millions of years ago and the glaciers recently affected our land. Have PRI’s knowledgeable staff explain the geology during an Interpretive Hike.

The above programs fulfill many NGSS standards for HS History of the Earth/ Earth Systems/ Life Science. And can be adapted to meet your needs.