



Feed your BRAIN

ROM Courses
begin March 2014

Spring 2014 Course Outline

Dinosaurs: Everything you ever wanted to know (but felt too grown up to ask)

Instructor: Bethany Kempster

Sundays, 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM, (5 weeks excluding April 20 & May 4)

March 30, 2014 - Dinosaurs 101

Today we'll cover all the basics necessary to make you sound like a professional palaeontologist. We'll discuss how different types of fossils are formed, why we've never found dinosaur fossils in Ontario, and the contributions of ROM palaeontologists over the past century. We'll also get some hands-on experience as we create fossil moulds and casts.

April 6, 2014 - What do you mean *Pterodactylus* isn't a dinosaur?

Just because it's extinct, doesn't necessarily mean it's a dinosaur. Over ninety percent of all living things have gone extinct, and dinosaurs make up only a tiny fraction of that number. Today we'll figure out where dinosaurs fall in the reptile family tree. By comparing their anatomy to other reptiles (both living and extinct) including crocodylians, lizards, pterosaurs, pliosaurs, and ichthyosaurs, we'll figure out what makes this group unique.

April 13, 2014 - Humans never met dinosaurs

The Flintstones cartoon is not known for its scientific accuracy; in their version of the past, dinosaurs co-existed with woolly mammoths and humans. Today we'll wrap our heads around 4.5 billion years of the Earth's history and examine what came before, during, and after the time of the dinosaurs. We'll also dive into the geological evidence of a world in motion as we discuss plate tectonics, continental drift, volcanoes, and impact craters.

April 27, 2014 - Was *Tyrannosaurus rex* red?

How much do we really know about what dinosaurs looked like, how they reproduced, what they ate, and how they defended themselves? Today we'll examine the fossil evidence to separate fact from speculation. Fossils we'll explore include the oldest known clutch of dinosaur eggs, a wide variety of dinosaur teeth (both herbivore and carnivore), and body parts like the *Stegosaurus's* plates and *Lambeosaurus's* crest that likely had more uses than just the obvious.

May 11, 2014 - It's Alive!

Most people would say with confidence that dinosaurs have been extinct for millions of years, but that statement is not entirely accurate. During the Jurassic period, a group of small feathered dinosaurs evolved into birds. This group has since become the dominant group of terrestrial vertebrates on earth today. We'll discuss the evolution of feathered dinosaurs, the development of flight, and explore the possibilities and impossibilities of bringing extinct dinosaurs back to life.

Contact: programs@rom.on.ca | 416-586-5797

