

Dr. Emlyn Koster, Geologist

North Carolina Museum of Natural Science

Podcast length: 16:13



LESSON PLAN

SYNOPSIS

The Walking Classroom's Laura Fenn gets to know geologist and [North Carolina Museum of Natural Science](#) Museum Director, [Dr. Emlyn Koster](#) in this podcast. Emlyn shares how early exploration at his childhood home led to a lifelong career in field of geology.

VOCABULARY

Review key vocabulary (included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast)

- **erode:** (verb) to gradually wear away soil, rock or land.
- **geomorphology:** (noun) the scientific study of the shape of the land
- **fossil:** (noun) the remains or impression of a prehistoric organism that has been preserved

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT & DISCUSSION

1. Emlyn Koster grew up in Southern England near the English Channel. How did where he grew up as a child influence his interests and ultimately his career? How might where you influence your career choice?
2. Emlyn Koster explained that the word “museum” comes from ancient Greek and is related to the muses, which are the inspirations for artists. How can museums be inspiring?
3. Emlyn Koster shared that as the museum director, he is the leader that goes between those people that work for him and those people that he works for and reports to. What might be some important skills/characteristics to have in order to be a good museum director?

BOOK SUGGESTIONS

Consider reading aloud or making some of these titles available to students to reinforce and extend some of the concepts covered in today's podcast.

Barnum's Bones by Tracey Fern

This story follows the life of Barnum Brown, paleontologist for the American Museum of Natural History and his discovery of the first documented skeleton of the T-Rex and more!

Bone Collection: Skulls by Camilla de la Bedoyere

This book is an incredible collection of skulls and helps readers better understand how the skull informs us about how the creature lived.

Tracking Tyrannosaurs by Christopher Sloan

This book is an incredible collection of skulls and helps readers better understand how the skull informs us about how the creature lived.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The following activities are ways to build on and extend some of the topics discussed in the podcast. We strongly encourage you to always preview videos prior to showing them to your students.

Construct-a-Sauraus! <http://bit.ly/1LRJuKr>

from BrainPOP!

Students get a chance to learn about the physiology of dinosaurs when they design their own in the lab. This activity allows students to be creative, while thinking about how characteristics like body structure and the leg length can affect an organism's mobility, defense, and ultimately its survival. There are some [great discussion questions](#) online at the Brainpop Educators page to help your students get the most out of this activity.

Fossil Fabricator <http://bit.ly/1dhI1QT>

from Wonderville

While playing this engaging game, students will learn about different types of fossils and the very specific conditions required for a fossil to be created.

Where Can You Find Fossils <http://bit.ly/1SbwZtp>

from Wonderopolis.org

Great passage and short video about where fossils can be found!