

## Seeing Dinosaurs Differently! Become a Palaeoartist!

### Student Introduction

- ▶ This resource will provide you with an introduction to **Palaeoart**.
- ▶ Can you identify what **Palaeoart** is? Why is it so important in the field of **palaeontology**?
- ▶ How creative can you be in producing your own artwork?

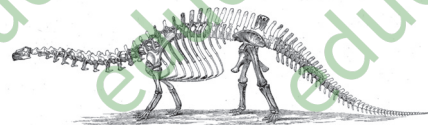
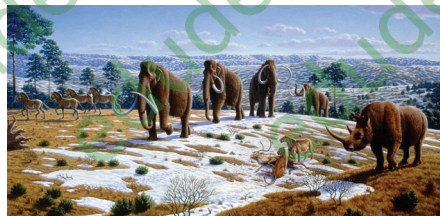


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In fact, all of the images on page 1 show Palaeoart! Palaeoart is art that depicts subjects related to **palaeontology** (study of past life using fossils). It can include modelling, sculpture, collage, abstract artworks and many other forms.



### Why is Palaeoart so important?

When fossilised bones are found, and skeletons are constructed, the challenge is then to add flesh and reconstruct the creature. It is rare for soft tissue to be preserved, so this is where palaeoart comes in! Artists have to imagine what creatures looked like, as (with a couple of exceptions) no-one really knows what colour a dinosaur was, and they can only guess at size and shape based on the fossils that are found!

**These artists INTERPRET based on EVIDENCE.**

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1. How do we know what dinosaurs or other prehistoric creatures looked like?
2. Why might palaeoartists' representations of particular dinosaurs change and alter over time?
3. Can palaeoart really be an accurate representation? If you were to find a fossilised chicken leg today, but didn't know it was from a chicken, what would your reconstruction look like, and how accurate would it be?
4. Why might aesthetics be important to palaeoartists?

### Challenge

Look around the *Dinosaur Expeditions Conservation & Palaeoart Centre*. Can you find examples of palaeoart that depict the following. Consider their purpose - are they aesthetically pleasing, or effective in a different way?

- ▶ Life restoration
- ▶ Environment & Landscape
- ▶ Diagrams / Scientific Illustrations
- ▶ Abstract interpretation
- ▶ Use of fossil patterns as inspiration

**Now, choose a fossil or other inspiration, and have a go at producing your own creative artwork.**



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