

BENESKI MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ABOUT BENESKI

The Beneski building is home to Amherst's geology department as well as the Beneski Museum of Natural History. The three-story museum displays over 1,700 specimens and is one of New England's largest natural history museums.

The museum has a unique collection of meteorites, minerals, and fossils. Beneski is also the home to one of the few early casts of a dinosaur skeleton found in the local area. The cast represents the *Podokesaurus Holyokensis*, the new state dinosaur, and one of the only dinosaur remains found in the state.

The Beneski Museum also has an impressive collection of dinosaur footprints, fossils, and even a preserved Columbian Mammoth skeleton, the inspiration for Amherst College's mascot!

IDEAS FOR CLASS

- Take a class tour of the museum with the wonderful student docents
- Explore the geologic history and evolution of the Pioneer Valley
- Experience how different casting and preservation methods work and which is most advantageous depending on the situation
- Bring an art class to draw or paint objects in the exhibit, or learn how to use old materials in art
- Explore different stories, myths, explanations, and significance throughout time of dinosaurs, fossils, and minerals. How do they differ across cultures?

WHO TO CONTACT:

Contact Fred Venne with questions or schedule a visit on the Beneski website

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