Investigating Fossils, Rocks, Erosion, & Earth History



450 million years ago Tennessee was covered by a shallow sea. For millions of years, generations of sea creatures such as coral, trilobites, brachiopods, crinoids, and cephalopods lived and died. Their remains along with sediments settled on the sea floor and eventually calcified into the limestone bedrock that is the foundation below all of Middle Tennessee. This limestone makes up St. Cloud Hill where, during the Civil War, stone was quarried and Fort Negley's walls were built. Enslaved and free African Americans built the federal fortification over four months in 1862. The fort inspired thousands to self-emancipate in hope of a better future.

2 hour morning field trip where 4th, 5th, 8th grade and environmental science students:

- Find fossils in limestone ledges at Fort Negley Park
- Discover what limestone is made of and how it weathers
- Search for, identify, ask questions about, and take home fossils from designated fossil collection site
- Model water cycle and landscape development by water erosion
- Discover why there are no dinosaur fossils in Tennessee
- Ask and answer questions about the history of life with color coded toy animals
- Feel and observe replica of saber-toothed cat skull
- Ask and answer questions about saber-toothed cats based on photographs
- Observe model mammoth bones and search for evidence of human predation



STATE SCIENCE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

- scientific practices such as asking questions, observation, analyzing, and using models
- •4th grade academic standards:

4.LS2, 4.LS4, 4.EES1

•5th grade academic standards:

5.LS4, 5.ESS1

•8th grade academic standard:

8.ESS2

•HS academic standards:

EVSC.ESS2, EVSC.ESS3



Cost: Free, no admission fee, program fee, or parking fee.

Available: Field trips are available throughout the school year with greatest availability in the fall. Tours take place on Tuesday through Friday mornings.

Requirements: One adult participant per 10 students, sturdy shoes, and weather-appropriate clothing.

Registration and Information: tinyurl.com/FNPFieldTrip

For questions contact Fort Negley Park at fortnegley@nashville.gov or 615-862-8470



FORT NEGLEY PARK (2013)

