

# When I grow up, I want to be a...Paleontologist!

<https://www.blm.gov/careers/careers-in-blm#geo>

## What Do Paleontologists Do?

A paleontologist is a scientist who studies past life by looking at plant and animal fossils. Many dinosaur and prehistoric fossils have been found on public lands across the country. Their work includes fossil excavations (digging), laboratory studies, writing about their findings, teaching, and preserving fossil sites of the past for the benefit of future generations.

Bureaus that employ Paleontologists:



This is a job for you if you enjoy:

- Being outside and digging in the dirt looking for interesting objects. Paleontologists spend a lot of time excavating and collecting fossils.
- Learning about dinosaurs and other creatures and plants that lived long ago. Fossils are often thought of as dinosaur bones and tracks, but they can also be from any living thing including plants.
- Asking questions and solving mysteries. Paleontologists are a mix of scientist, historian, and detective. Fossils can tell paleontologists not only about the organism, but also the environment it lived in and what the Earth was like at that time.
- Teaching others. Paleontologists educate other people through museum displays and giving talks.

## Age-Appropriate Activities

Activities for Ages 4 Years and Under:

- [Dinosaurs of Alaska's North Slope Coloring Page](#)

Activities for Ages 5 – 8 Years:

- [Geology and Fossils Activity Book Junior Ranger](#)
- [Junior Paleontologist Activity Book](#)
- [Dinosaurs of Alaska's North Slope Coloring Page](#)
- [Mill Canyon Dinosaur Trailhead Interpretive Site](#)

Activities for Ages 9 – 12 Years:

- [Geology and Fossils Activity Book Junior Ranger](#)
- [Junior Paleontologist Activity Book](#)
- [Mill Canyon Dinosaur Trailhead Interpretive Site](#)

Activities for 13+:

- [Geology and Fossils Activity Book Junior Ranger](#)
- [Mill Canyon Dinosaur Trailhead Interpretive Site](#)

Español:

- [Geología y Fosiles Cuaderno de actividades Joven Guardaparques](#)