

Saskatchewan Provincial Fossil Contest

The following information is available online at:

<http://www.royalsaskmuseum.ca/education/inquiry-project/fossil-video-contest>

The province of Saskatchewan is represented by many symbols and emblems including the provincial floral emblem: the western red lily, mineral: potash, animal: white tailed deer and tree: white birch. Soon Saskatchewan's rich paleontological history will also be represented with a provincial fossil. This symbol will be chosen through a public online vote in spring 2016.

To celebrate this process the Royal Saskatchewan Museum is excited to hold a video contest¹ for Saskatchewan students. Grade 7 classes from across the province are invited to learn about the fossils on the candidate list, choose the one they think would best represent Saskatchewan and create a short video to argue their case. The videos entered into the contest will be posted online and used to help promote and build excitement about the candidates for Saskatchewan's Provincial Fossil. The videos will be also be evaluated and one video will be chosen as the winner!

Grand Prize

The class with the winning video entry will garner fame, a special gift and a visit to their class/school by a Royal Saskatchewan Museum paleontologist.

Creating the Video

1. Research
 - Research the fossils on the **candidate list**.
 - Consider connecting with many of your Science 7 Earth and Space Science Outcomes using our optional **Inquiry Project**. Creating the video will also connect with Arts Education 7 Outcomes and English Language Arts 7 Outcomes. See the curriculum connections **here**.
 - See some of the **Educational Resources** on our list.
2. Decide which candidate fossil best represents Saskatchewan
 - Could include pro and con lists, debates, etc.
3. Construct arguments for the candidate, for example:
 - What does the fossil tell us about Saskatchewan
 - Why is the fossil special to Saskatchewan
 - How does the fossil represent Saskatchewan's geological past
4. Present your reasoning in a short (4 minute or less) video. For example:
 - Write script
 - Work on graphics
 - Create a news show, commercial, dance or skit etc. Be creative!
 - Edit video
 - **Submit video** into contest¹

¹Contest Rules

- Open to grade seven classes or split classes including grade sevens across Saskatchewan.
- Video length 1 to 4 minutes (maximum).
- Signed media release forms for participants are required (these may be covered under your school board media release forms)
- Allow the Royal Saskatchewan Museum to use video to promote Saskatchewan's provincial fossil.
- Submissions must have cleared copyright on any third party content
- Contest closes March 21, 2016. Winner will be chosen by March 25, 2016. Prizes will be awarded between April and June 2016.
- Winning video will be selected based on:
 - complete application information and media release forms submitted
 - length: no more than 4 minutes
 - content, must appropriate for all audiences
 - whether permissions of copyrighted material (e.g. music, video, graphics) were acquired and credit given
 - production values (technical quality)
 - audio clarity, of an appropriate volume, and speech is highly intelligible
 - image clarity, bright and steady
 - audio or visual effects support and enhance the message, rather than distract the viewer
 - the message is communicated effectively: the narrative is clear and coherent
 - the content is fair, accurate and up-to-date
 - the video is creative, original or innovative
 - the video engages the viewer because it is educational, inspiring or persuasive
 - the video clearly and creatively provides reason and argument for which fossil should represent Saskatchewan as its Provincial Fossil
- Prizes cannot be exchanged for monetary value.