

# For Teachers



## Earth Science, Excavation and Extinction

Dear Teachers,

It is hard to believe the school year is in full swing and the Thanksgiving Holiday will be here before we know it! Before you take that well deserved break, we hope you'll take advantage of our upcoming PD and Online resources focused on Earth Science, Excavation and Extinction (you know, the 3 E's).

On Saturday November 21, The La Brea Tar Pits school programs team is joining forces with the Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) to offer an awesome earth science PD for middle school teachers. This robust curriculum is an entire unit worth of middle school earth science, and if you attend this training workshop, you get two sets of the curriculum for free! The Tar Pits are prominently featured in the materials, so we'll round out the experience by touring the site. Register at <http://www.tarpits.org/for-teachers/professional-development> and find out more about EEI at <http://www.californiaeei.org/Curriculum/>.

If you're left still wanting more (and we hope you are), you can check out a recent talk given by excavator and geologist Karin Rice, who will introduce you to the unique tectonic conditions that helped form this area. Find it at <http://www.tarpits.org/for-teachers/professional-development/workshop-resources> and watch it with colleagues or even show an excerpt to your students!

**Molly Porter**  
Manager, School and Teacher Programs

## Adventures Await!

Middle and high schoolers explore the Pleistocene Garden in search of Ice Age survivors. Elementary students clamor to share their observations about our mounted fossil specimens. Kindergarteners pounce and fly through our galleries like saber-toothed kittens and condors. This can only mean one thing...

Guided programs are here again! These free field trip add-ons run through the end of February and offer students the unique opportunity to interact with our amazing Museum educators and learn the inside story of the Tar Pits. Best of all, our programs are aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards across all grade levels to best complement the hard work your students already do in the classroom. Space in these programs is filling quickly, so schedule your trip soon at <http://www.tarpits.org/for-teachers/field-trips>.

When you visit with your students during the fall and winter, you will also be able to check out our new film *Titans of the Ice Age* without a prior reservation. This 25-minute documentary is open to all grade levels and delves into everything from Pleistocene biodiversity to climate change.

Ice Age adventures await...

**Kelsey Ziff**  
Coordinator, School Programs



As if saber-toothed cats and mammoths weren't massive enough, get ready to see them on the big screen in *Titans of the Ice Age*!

## This Month's Issue:

Earth Science, Excavation  
and Extinction

Adventures Await!

Can You Dig It:  
*Titans of the Ice Age!*

Upcoming Opportunities

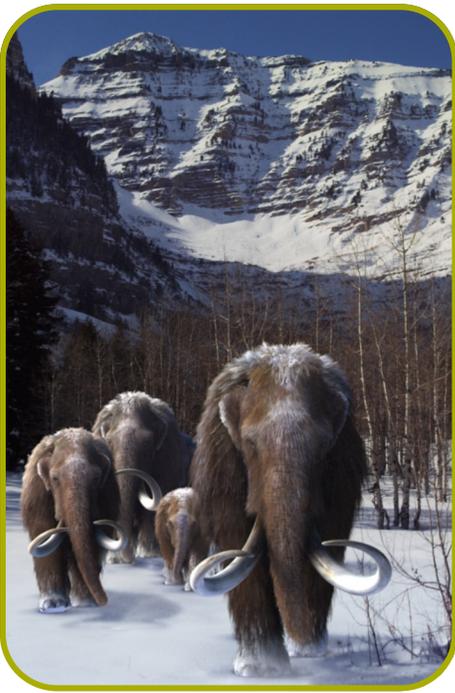
Rainy Days & Resources

## Can You Dig It: *Titans of the Ice Age!*

It's pretty obvious that everyone on the Tar Pits team loves the Ice Age. But our Pleistocene story is a little different than what you might imagine. Instead of ice sheets and sub-zero temperatures, we had a milder climate, and probably only saw a little snow in the winter.

While we can't get enough of L.A.'s past, we thought it might be nice to show you how our local history fits into a global context. That's where *Titans of the Ice Age* comes in! In this 25-minute film, you'll have the chance to experience those snowy landscapes, and see how humans once shared the frozen tundra with majestic beasts. You'll also get an idea of how Earth's climate has changed over thousands of years, and how fossil sites like the Tar Pits help us understand climate change today.

*Titans* is available for schools in 2D Monday - Thursday mornings, and *requires advanced reservations if you'd like to see it in March, April, or May.*



### Fossil Fact!

See those woolly mammoths up there? They are some of the most iconic creatures from the Ice Age, but we actually don't find them at the Tar Pits. Why not? All that hair would pretty much be the equivalent of an itchy wool sweater in the middle of summer. Columbian mammoths like the poor guy on the right were way better equipped to handle L.A.'s (relatively) warm Ice Age climate, but apparently not its Tar Pits.

## Upcoming Opportunities

**Field Trip: Journey through Life on Earth\***  
**Saturday, November 14, 9 am - 12 pm**

Get in on an exciting new project and help us develop activities for classrooms! We'll explore the aisles of our ancient invertebrate paleontology collections with Collections Manager Austin Hendy and then work together to sort new samples gathered from sites around L.A. Register at <http://www.nhm.org/site/for-teachers/professional-development>.

*\*Hosted by the Natural History Museum.*

**Extinction Past and Present with EEI**  
**Saturday, November 21, 9 am - 12 pm**

**\*Middle School Teachers receive priority registration**

Join the Tar Pits School Programs Team and EEI Environmental Education Specialist Kirk Amato for a free educator workshop focused on change and extinction in California. We will examine the La Brea Tar Pits as a unique case study for biotic and abiotic change, and you'll leave with a suite of resources to bring everything you've learned back to your classroom!

All attendees will receive a free classroom set of the EEI Curriculum. Register at <http://www.tarpits.org/for-teachers/professional-development>.



## Rainy Days

We've all heard it--although we're still having a hard time believing it--it's going to rain this winter! In the event that it does rain on your field trip day, the Tar Pits team has got you covered (literally). We provide indoor lunch spaces and check-in to keep your group dry. Remember that our excavators work rain or shine, so you can still go visit them at Project 23!

## Museum Resources

Check out <http://www.tarpits.org/for-teachers/field-trip-resources> to find tons of exciting resources for you to use during your next Tar Pits field trip. Grade-specific lesson plans will keep your students engaged, and Chaperone Guides will keep your adults organized.

## How to Book!

Go to [www.tarpits.org/for-teachers](http://www.tarpits.org/for-teachers) and click on the *Field Trips* link for step-by-step instructions on how to plan your day and submit a field trip request!