



STEM Careers

Paleontologist

Job Description: Study ancient life by way of fossils, bones, and other remnants of historical life to determine what areas were like long ago.

What do Paleontologists do?

- Use radiometric dating to determine the age of fossils.
- Date rock layers by examining the fossils in each layer.
- Participate in digs in fossil-rich areas such as the southern Appalachians and the Rockies.
- Evaluate prints and fossils.
- Use a microscope to study microscopic fossil organisms.
- Reassemble remains recovered during digs.
- Present findings to the general public and/or teach at the university level.

Your Interests:

- Do you like being outside?
- Do you like to travel?
- Do you enjoy solving mysteries?
- Do you like to collect rocks?
- Do you like learning about animals?

Outlook:

Average Salary - \$39.05 hourly, \$81,220 annual

Projected Job Openings - 15,400 over the next 10 years

Education/Program of Study:

- Bachelor's Degree in Zoology or Geology
- PhD in Earth Science or Paleontology

Sources:

O*NET Online

http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/people/cfs/generic/geologist_143.pdf

http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/science-engineering-careers/Geo_geoscientist_c001.shtml?From=testb