BENESKI MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ABOUT BENESKI

The Beneski building is home to Amherst's geology department as well as the Beneski Museum of Natural History. The three-story museum displays over 1,700 specimens and is one of New England's largest natural history museums.

The museum has a unique collection of meteorites, minerals, and fossils. Beneski is also the home to one of the few early casts of a dinosaur skeleton found in the local area. The cast represents the Podokesaurus Holyokensis, the new state dinosaur, and one of the only dinosaur remains found in the state.

The Beneski Museum also has an impressive collection of dinosaur footprints, fossils, and even a preserved Columbian Mammoth skeleton, the inspiration for Amherst College's mascot!

IDEAS FOR CLASS

- Take a class tour of the museum with the wonderful student docents
- Explore the geologic history and evolution of the Pioneer Valley
- Experience how different casting and preservation methods work and which is most advantageous depending on the situation
- Bring an art class to draw or paint objects in the exhibit, or learn how to use old materials in art
- Explore different stories, myths, explanations, and significance throughout time of dinosaurs, fossils, and minerals. How do they differ across cultures?

WHO TO CONTACT:

Contact Fred Venne with questions or schedule a visit on the Beneski website
avenne@amherst.edu