



# Highlights of the Natural History Gallery



## Of Mammoths and Mastodons

Near the Mammoth display

Look for the Mammoth and Mastodon teeth in the display case called 'Ice House'. Both species looked similar, but were highly evolved to live in different environments. Notice the differences between these fossils, and read the panel on the wall to figure out how their tooth shapes helped each species collect and digest different foods.

**DISCUSS**

**Choose another fossil to look at. What can it tell you about BC's past?**

## It's Getting Hot in Here

Climate Change hallway

Earth's climate and landscapes never stop changing. Warm and cold cycles alternate over periods of thousands to millions of years. Now, the World is warming, but this time, it's because of atmospheric greenhouse gases released by human activity. Global warming has already begun to disturb plants and animals in BC's ecosystems.



**DISCUSS**

**How will humans adapt to global warming, and the animals coming and going in the 'nature on the move' cases?**



## Fish-Fed Forests

Bears and ravens aren't the only living things that benefit from salmon swimming upstream to spawn. When predators like Grizzly Bears catch and drag salmon into the forest, fish leftovers decompose and serve as fertilizer for nearby forests. Scientists have found a special type of nitrogen inside trees such as Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, and Sitka Spruce that comes almost exclusively from the open ocean! These links between the ocean and the forest show how life is connected, and may be important to understanding the future of BC's forest ecosystems!

**DISCUSS**

**What is another plant or animal in BC that greatly affects other living things in its habitat?**

## A Wetland Swansong

In the Delta Display

Find the Trumpeter Swans in the Delta Display. Commercial hunting and habitat destruction from construction projects in wetlands almost led to their extinction. Recently, through conservation efforts, populations have recovered. Unfortunately, another threat remains. Millions of lead pellets used in hunting have settled in wetlands, where swans may still ingest them and die from lead poisoning. Conservationists are trying to find and remove lead from wetlands, but it's not an easy task.



### DISCUSS

**How do your actions impact local ecosystems in your community?**

#### What's Missing?

The Royal BC Museum is about all of BC. That being said, what ecosystems or animals are missing from the Natural History Gallery? What about important environmental issues? Do you know of any new information that would help us update the museum?

Talk in a group, and come up with a way to better represent the environments of BC at the museum. Tweet your response with **#museumquestion** to **@RoyalBCMuseum**, and search the hashtag to check out what other students had to say.

#### Find Your #Museumselfie

Where do you fit in at the museum? It could have something to do with who you are, your family's history, or just how you are feeling in the moment! Take a selfie somewhere in the museum, and explain why you chose to be in that location (be sure not to use your flash!).

Use **#Museumselfie** and tag **@RoyalBCMuseum** to connect your photo with other students across BC.

Connect with  
**@RoyalBCMuseum**

