

Tar Pits Discoveries at the Natural History Museum

LA Underwater | Level 1 - Find the display with **California's state fossil**: the saber-toothed cat. Where does the tar come from? Draw or write your answer below:

Becoming Los Angeles | Level 1 - Did you know that people use tar for many purposes? Explore this exhibit to find at least **one way tar is used**.

Name of community / group of people:

How they use tar:

African Mammal Hall | Level 1 - Find the **African Elephant diorama**. Scientists used to think that Ice Age LA looked similar to this diorama: an African savannah. This was because in the beginning, they only focused on really large fossils they found in the tar pits, like bones from camels, saber-toothed cats, and mammoths.

What are 2 features you notice about this habitat?

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Nature Lab and North American Mammal Halls | Level Ground, 1, & 2 - All the large mammals went extinct at the end of the Ice Age, but many smaller animals survived! Which **Ice Age Survivors** can you find in the museum? I spy:

- ☐ Coyote
- ☐ Mountain Lion
- ☐ Beaver
- ☐ Raccoon
- ☐ Skunk
- ☐ Bobcat
- ☐ Grey Fox
- ☐ Black Bear
- ☐ Western Pond Turtle
- ☐ Raccoon
- ☐ Golden Eagle

Dino Hall | Level 1 - **Fossils** can be formed in many ways. Fossils found at the Tar Pits were preserved through tar filling in tiny holes in bones, teeth, shells, and plants. This seals out bacteria and also protects them from the sun and weather.



Discuss with your group:

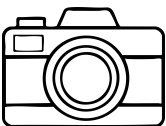
How is this similar or different from the types of fossils you see in the Dino Hall?

Dino Hall Mezzanine | Level 2 - Find the section on **tools paleontologists use**. Which one would you like to try using? Draw it:

Age of Mammals | Level 1 - Take some time to explore all the Ice Age animals in this exhibit!

Draw **one animal** that you are surprised lived in LA during the Ice Age:

There are many factors that led to the extinction of large mammals at the end of the Ice Age. Draw the **story of extinction**, incorporating one or more of these factors below.



How do you **Measure Up**? Take a picture next to the bear species graphic to see which bear you're closest in height to: black bear, grizzly bear, or the extinct short-faced bear.

Nature Gardens| Access through Ground or Level 1- Animals aren't the only things we find in the tar pits; all the plants we've discovered are Ice Age Survivors too!

Some of these plants exist now only in northern California or other states, like Rocky Mountain Juniper, while others are still here in southern California. Can you find at least **3 California native plants** in our gardens? Name them below.

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By studying plant fossils and smaller animals like insects, scientists discovered that Ice Age LA was not like an African savannah at all! It was cooler and wetter than today, and featured diverse plant communities.

What do you think Ice Age LA looked like?
Draw it below. Include some of the plants and animals you discovered while exploring today!