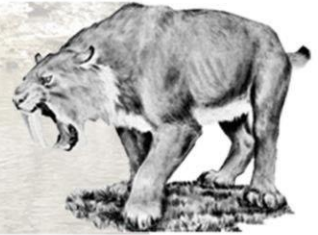




# FLORIDA FOSSILS KEY



Many strange and fascinating animals once roamed ancient Florida!

Over time, the remains of some of these creatures became rock, and they can be found today as *fossils*.

(The *Florida Formations* exhibit takes you through the state's 500-million-year geological history.)

**CAN YOU FIND the fossils of these amazing organisms that used to live in Florida?**

Match the animal with its fossil from the specimen bank on page-2. Write the letter of the fossil in the correct box.

**DUGONG (7 - 14 million years old)**



**Dugongs** are relatives of modern manatees. They lived in the warm shallow seas that surrounded and often covered much of Florida during Miocene time. Dugongs have fluked tails, different from the round tails of manatees.

**A Dugong rib fossil**

A

Write the letter (A - H) here \_\_\_\_\_, and do a quick sketch of the fossil specimen.

**MEGALODON (3 - 23 million years old)**



**Megalodons** are giant prehistoric sharks that dominated the oceans around Florida during Miocene time. They could grow as long as a school bus, and were one of the largest and most powerful predators that ever lived. They are now extinct.

**A Megalodon tooth fossil**

H

Write the letter (A - H) here \_\_\_\_\_, and do a quick sketch of the fossil specimen.

**RHINOCEROS (8 - 10 million years old)**



**Rhinoceroses** used to live in Florida! Scientists think that the rhino (Teleoceras) of the Florida Miocene was more terrestrial (land-living) than the similar-bodied modern hippo, which lives amphibiously (in both land & water).

**A Rhinoceros jaw bone**

D

Write the letter (A - H) here \_\_\_\_\_, and do a quick sketch of the fossil specimen.

**GLYPTODONT (12,000 - 2 million years old)**



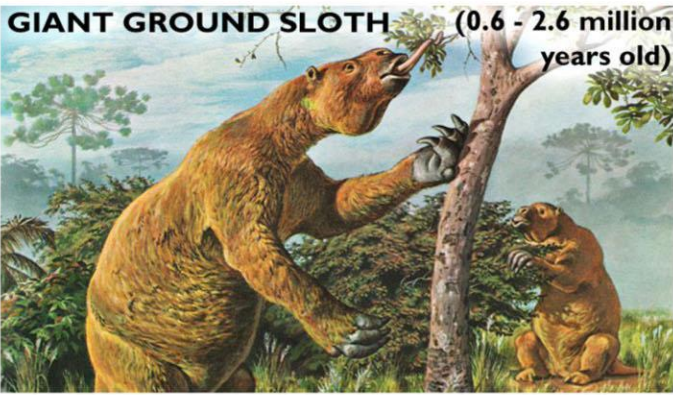
**Glyptodonts** are giant armadillo-like creatures that were the size of small cars. They had protective shells covering them, made up of over 1000 bony scutes or *osteoderms*, and bony armor on their heads & tails too.

**A Glyptodont osteoderm**

B

Write the letter (A - H) here \_\_\_\_\_, and do a quick sketch of the fossil specimen.





**Giant Ground Sloths** are large herbivores that lived in Florida during early Pleistocene times. They ate tree leaves and other foliage, using their long, strong claws to grasp branches as high up as seventeen feet in the air.

**CAN YOU FIND...?**

**A Giant Ground Sloth claw**

F

Write the letter (A - H) here \_\_\_\_\_, and do a quick sketch of the fossil specimen.

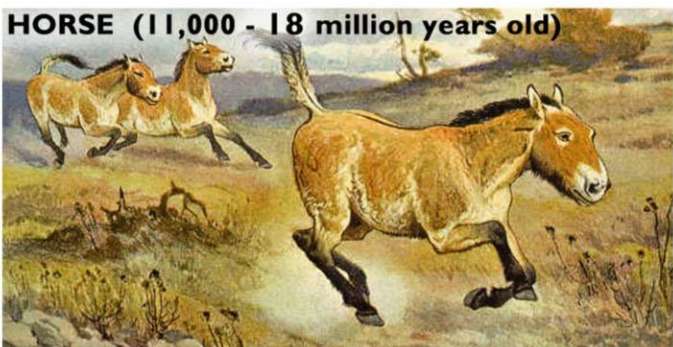


**Gomphotheres** are elephant-like animals that had both upper and lower tusks. They lived in Florida in Miocene, Pliocene, & Pleistocene times. They had cone-like cusps on their teeth similar to mastodons.

**A Gomphothere tooth**

C

Write the letter (A - H) here \_\_\_\_\_, and do a quick sketch of the fossil specimen.



**Wild Horses** used to range across ancient Florida. Fossils of a variety of different horse species have been found in the state from Miocene, Pliocene, & Pleistocene times. The earliest horses were dog-sized.

**A Three-toed Horse foot**

G

Write the letter (A - H) here \_\_\_\_\_, and do a quick sketch of the fossil specimen.



**Mammoths** first appeared in Florida about a million and a half years ago. These Columbian mammoths of Pleistocene time were grazers, and had flat, washboard-like teeth for grinding grasses like their elephant cousins.

**A Mammoth tooth fossil**

E

Write the letter (A - H) here \_\_\_\_\_, and do a quick sketch of the fossil specimen.

