

Post-Visit Activity:

Shape Art of the Past

Objective: Students will be able to list ways that people have changed and influenced their environment. They will also be able to list things that have remained unchanged.

Materials: Construction paper, scissors, glue, a big wall sized sheet of paper

Background: In the Black Hills, there are landforms that have remained the same shape for the past thousand years. Meanwhile there have been cities built and the prairie has been cultivated for farming. Discuss the effect that humans have on the environment and the wildlife. The wildlife would have to adapt to the changes or go extinct.

Procedure: Ask students what they think the area near their home was like 100 years ago, 25,000 years ago, 65 million years ago? What has changed and what caused these changes? How is the land the same, how is it different? Were there more animals? What kinds of animals were here, what is gone, what is the same? What role did the weather play in the changes that have taken place? Divide the class up into three groups to make a collage of what the area would have looked like. Assign each group a time period – 100 years ago, 25,000 years ago, and 65 million years ago. Have the students display their collage and discuss the differences. For more information about these time periods, you might have the students interview people at the Mammoth Site, the Badlands National Park and talk with local historians.

