

Badlands in Your Classroom

National Park Service
Department of the Interior

Badlands National Park



How Big Was It?

Prehistoric animals were a variety of sizes and shapes.

Pre-visit lesson plan for Badlands in Your Classroom program

Grade: 3 & 4

Length: 60 minutes

Presenter: Teacher

Materials: Badlands Fossil Cards, meter or yard sticks, butcher paper (optional)

South Dakota Content Standards

Third Grade Math Measurement Standards:

Students will estimate and measure length to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or centimeter.

Students will measure and compare objects using measurable attributes.

Fourth Grade Math Measurement Standards:

Students will develop strategies to make measurement estimates.

Students will measure length to the nearest eighth inch or to the nearest millimeter.

Badlands National Park Primary Theme

The Badlands fossil and geological record reflects changing climates and the diversity, abundance, and evolution of life; its study provides insight into the survival of species.

Objectives:

1. Estimate the height and length of prehistoric animals.
2. Measure the height and length of prehistoric animals.
3. Observe the size relations between different species and express that relationship mathematically.

Procedure:

- Read excerpts from the Badlands Fossil Trading Cards to the students.
- Pass out cards to groups of students.
- Have the students measure the length and/or height of the animals on the cards.
- Discuss that in nature, there is a variety of sizes in any species. Use humans as an example to illustrate this point.
- Students can try to draw the animals in the actual sizes on the butcher paper. (optional)
- Students can estimate the height and length of the animals that other groups sketched.
- Students can measure the height and length of the animals other groups sketched.
- Students can complete different measurement activities such as compare the sizes of the different animals.