

OUR WEAKENING WEB



The Story of Extinction

A National Traveling Exhibit

**Learning how to preserve
nature's balance
can be pure child's play.**

Explore over 500 million years of natural history
in a fascinating exhibit from the creators
of *Beakman's World™ on Tour*, *In the Dark* and *Children Just Like Me™*.

Discover nature's never-ending process of extinction
through life-size scenes, hands-on displays and electronic games.

Make a difference. Find solutions to preserving nature's balance
that are as close as your own backyard.



Cincinnati Museum Center
Department of Traveling Exhibits
1301 Western Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203
800.733.2077, ext. 1-7061
cnovy@cincymuseum.org

Our Weakening Web: The Story of Extinction

General Requirements

- 1,800 ft² of exhibit space
- 8' minimum ceiling height required
- Interpretation staff on-site is suggested

Cost

- \$12,500 for rental period of 12-13 weeks average
 - \$5,000 deposit due with signed agreement
- \$5,500 pro-rated shipping fee
- On-site insurance during exhibit run and en-route to the next venue
- Supporting educational and marketing materials

Supporting Materials *Mailed 3 months in advance*

Educational Materials include:

- Teacher Guide with 10 activities
- Puppet Show script and music for “Endangered Rangers”
- Theatrical script and lyrics available for “Extinction Follies”
- 2 Floor Demonstrations: “Environmental Truth or Consequences” and “Garbage Pizza”

Marketing Materials package includes:

- Press kit, images, logo
- 1 exhibit poster
- 3 slicks for print ads
- 3 logotype/graphic art slicks

Retail Materials order form for

- Children's Book: "True Stories of Life on Earth"
- Souvenir Logo pin

Itinerary

For a current itinerary, please call us at 1.800.733.2077, extension 1-7061 or visit http://www.cincymuseum.org/information_center/traveling_exhibits/Exhibits.asp

Educational associations

National Science Standards

Life Science

Content Standard C:

- Regulation and behavior – adaptation
- Population and ecosystems
- Diversity and adaptations of organisms – extinction

Earth and Space Science

Content Standard D:

- Earth's history – fossils
- Common processes, occasional catastrophes
- Structure of the earth system – effects of living organisms

Key concepts

- Preserving biodiversity is important for all living things
- Loss of habitat is the main cause of extinction today
- People can help the environment to heal

Our Weakening Web: The Story of Extinction

Exhibit Summary

A beautiful combination of hand-crafted dioramas—featuring scenes from prehistory to present day—and interactive components that focus on environmental impact and advocacy, *Our Weakening Web* presents a timely, important topic in a fun and engaging fashion.

The exhibit is divided into five sections that focus on three themes:

- 1) Biodiversity is important for all living things,
- 2) Loss of habitat is the main cause of extinction today, and
- 3) We (people) can help the environment to heal and slow down the extinction process.

The five exhibit sections include:

Empty Skies: The concept of extinction is introduced by focusing on a recently extinct animal: the passenger pigeon. Simple ideas about how nature and humans change the environment are presented. The “story” idea is key, that extinction is a true story about how living things and ecosystems are part of a “web” of life on Earth.

Hanging by a Thread. Extinction is nothing new! This section of the exhibit takes visitors on a walk through time—530 million years—to find out how extinction has changed different plants and animals. Possible reasons for these extinctions are explored for six time periods; the Cambrian (530 million years ago), the Ordovician (400 million years ago), the Permian (250 million years ago), the Cretaceous (65 million years ago), the Pleistocene (10,000 years ago), and Recent Time (100 years ago).

The Web Unravels. Our current environmental situation is explored, and features a scene with a grey fox raising her cubs on the edge of a residential development. The concept of loss of habitat is explored in-depth, focusing on problems like clear-cutting of forests, pollution of the oceans, and over-population of our planet.

Spinning for Success. Not all the news is bad. Many people in North America and all over the world are working to preserve wildlife and "green" spaces. This section of the exhibit explores the beaches near Cape Canaveral, Florida, where the government, state officials and local citizens work together to preserve animals like the wood stork and green sea turtle. We also take a look at rebounding species in other areas, like the grey whale, sea otter, and the Northern Elephant seal.

Repairing the Web: There is a job each of us can do to preserve wildlife and the environment. This section of the exhibit tells how. From turning off the lights, to starting a compost pile, to recycling aluminum, to writing and speaking up for environmental issues, each display provides many different ways to make a difference. Visitors learn: “The end of the story is up to YOU!”

Our Weakening Web: The Story of Extinction

Exhibit Contents

Our Weakening Web: The Story of Extinction helps visitors to understand the process of extinction as a natural occurrence over millions of years. Through the display of life-like dioramas and interactive components that encourage hands-on learning, visitors find out about the ecological relationships that bind all life forms together. The exhibit shows what is happening today and why environmental conservation is important. *Our Weakening Web* seeks to compel visitors to take action in their daily lives—to promote preservation of the Earth's richness and biological diversity.

EMPTY SKIES

Two introductory panels featuring American Chestnut forest and passenger pigeons and exhibit information

HANGING BY A THREAD/Timeline Section

Twelve panels of prehistoric scenes:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| TESTING THE WATERS | 530 million years ago |
| Cambrian Period (horn corals, invertebrates, scene of ocean floor) | |
| Panel 2: Find out what might survive if our own phylum went extinct | |
| IT WAS TOO GOOD TO LAST | 430 million years ago |
| Ordovician Period (trilobites, brachiopods in a shallow sea) | |
| Panel 2: Discover what might have happened to cause this extinction | |
| BY THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH | 250 million years ago |
| Permian Period (prehistoric lungfish, dipolochus, coastal habitat scene) | |
| Panel 2: Identify one survivor in 20 species from 250 million years ago | |
| CATCH A FALLING STAR | 65 million years ago |
| Cretaceous Period (dinosaur skeletons, meteorite impact scene) | |
| Panel 2: Solve a mystery that could explain the dinosaur's demise | |
| CUTTING THEM DOWN TO SIZE | 10,000 years ago |
| Pleistocene Epoch (megafauna, footprints, American West scene) | |
| Panel 2: Compare spruce forests past and present and how the animals that lived there were affected | |
| THE LATE WORLD WILDLIFE | 100 years ago |
| Recent Time (Carolina parakeet, cornfield scene) | |
| Panel 2: Find out what could cause human extinction | |

THE WEB UNRAVELS/Current Situation Section

Large diorama of grey fox and cubs near construction site

Wildlife habitats, like this grey fox den, are being destroyed by uncontrolled developments. On the side of the diorama, a window invites visitors to observe a litter of grey foxes at home in their den. A Black Walnut tree touch model is attached to one of the dioramas front panels, and visitors can open a door to discover a flying squirrel nesting inside.

Current situation interactives, featuring:

- BARKING UP THE RIGHT TREE, discover the many benefits of a single species of a tree in this scene.
- DEEP WOODS IN DEEP TROUBLE, an electronic map that compares old growth forests of 1620 and old-growth forests today
- LOOKING FOR THE CAUSE, flip labels and graphics identifies possible causes for extinction (introduction of foreign species, habitat destruction, overhunting, and natural extinction)
- A NATURAL ORDER, a mechanical matching game that ranks different species in order of relative importance to the visitor

Our Weakening Web: The Story of Extinction

Exhibit contents continued

SPINNING FOR SUCCESS/Environmental Success Stories Section

Large diorama of Cape Canaveral seashore sanctuary

Much has been done to slow down the process of extinction today. Laws are being passed and scientists are working to protect wildlife and the earth. This section of the exhibit invites visitors to discover ways the web of life is being repaired. The visual theme of this section is park architecture, and features a beach scene of a wood stork, green sea turtle, indigo snake, ruddy turnstones, and accompanying beach plants. Cape Canaveral preserves habitat for more endangered species than any other reserve in North America.

Success stories interactives, featuring:

SPECIES PROTECTIONS, ACT 1, Flip labels and graphics explore the impact of laws protecting plants and animals in the scene

WILD BY LAW, Pull-drawers explain activities and actions that preserve habitat, like the Wilderness Act of 1964

SEEING SUCCESS, A video program features people talking about experiencing nature without harming it, and the intrinsic value they have gained from visiting wild areas

REPAIRING THE WEB/What You Can Do Sections

Visitors find out ways that they can help repair the web of living things in which they live. The visual theme of this section is house architecture, or what might be found in visitor's back yards.

What you can do interactives, featuring:

KEEPING UP AND SPEAKING OUT, a computer game that helps discover what's going on in the environment world-wide. Issue postcards are available for visitors to use.

DEFENDERS BY THE DOZEN, a mechanical display that shows groups that help wildlife that visitors can join

LOCAL LIFESAVING, a mechanical interactive that compares activities like recycling, mass transit, and energy conservation to discover which slows down extinction the most

BACKYARD RANGERS, a porch scene with rotating cubes that shows how actions like planting berry-producing plants, letting a few dead trees stand and creating a pond encourages backyard wildlife.

Exit Panel

HOW ARE YOU FEELING, a panel and flip labels that encourage awareness and determination to act to preserve the environment, as opposed to feeling guilty or sad. Visitors discover, "The end of the story is up to YOU!"

Letter of Intent

You have expressed interest in hosting the Cincinnati Museum Center's traveling exhibit:

Our Weakening Web: The Story of Extinction

for the following dates: (please write in)

Dates: _____

To hold the indicated dates for 30 days, please complete this form and return to the Department of Traveling Exhibits at Cincinnati Museum Center at the address below. If the form is not returned, we cannot hold a slot for your organization. Within 14 days of receiving the signed Letter of Intent, CMC will issue an Exhibition Agreement to confirm the dates and provide exhibit facts and conditions. The host organization/venue will have 30 days to sign the Exhibition Agreement and submit the indicated deposit. If an Exhibition Agreement is not signed and a deposit not received within the prescribed time, the exhibit dates will be released.

Organization: _____

Mailing address: _____

Name (printed): _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please sign and return the original of this form to:

Department of Traveling Exhibits
Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal
1301 Western Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45203
Phone: 513-287-7061 Fax: 513-287-7062
Email: cnovy@cincymuseum.org