

Funding Request Form

Answer Key

Many paleontologists are trying to get funding to help with exploration and excavation projects around the world. Why should this foundation give money toward your request? Tell us more about how you chose your potential fossil site, what types of organisms could have been preserved, and the scientific significance of this project.

Paleontologist: Student's name **Date:** Assigned Date

Project Name: Project names will vary

Fossil Site Location: Summerville, SC (This would be the best location to find fossils.)

Site Justification:

Response should persuasively include the following key concepts:

- Summerville, SC is located in the coastal plain region of SC and the rock makeup in this area tends to be limestone, marl, and sandstone.

- These are all examples of sedimentary rocks which means they have formed through deposition of sediment and particles of rock in layers and layers. As the layers build up the pressure on the sediment, the pressure causes cementation and the creation of sedimentary rocks.

- Sedimentary rocks are often deposited in layers and frequently contain fossils.

Expected Fossil Finds:

- We expect to find the hard parts of organisms that preserve more easily than the soft tissues.

- We could find bones, teeth, or shells of land or aquatic animals.

- Summerville was once underwater and the bottom of the ocean.

- There could also be trace fossils of burrows, footprints or even coprolite (fossilized scat).

Significance of research:

- Finding fossils is like finding jigsaw pieces of the past. Each piece gets us closer to understanding the ecosystems and organisms that lived before us. If we learn from our past we can make better decisions for helping to protect the ecosystems that we have today. We can make more informed decisions to be able to protect organisms for the future.