

# Illinois State Museum

## Changes

Like any environment, Illinois has undergone a lot of changes over time. This exciting exhibit allows you to explore the Illinois of millions of years ago as well as the Illinois of today. Was Illinois once underwater? What kind of plants and animals that once prospered no longer exist?

These changes are recorded in a number of ways, with details revealed through the geologic record (rock, fossils, etc.), human record (writings, drawings, photographs), and genetic records (changes in an organism's physical structure and behavior).

You will have a chance to see, hear, and touch Illinois' natural history through engaging hands-on interactive displays, audio and video effects, and thousands of authentic fossils.

## Artifacts

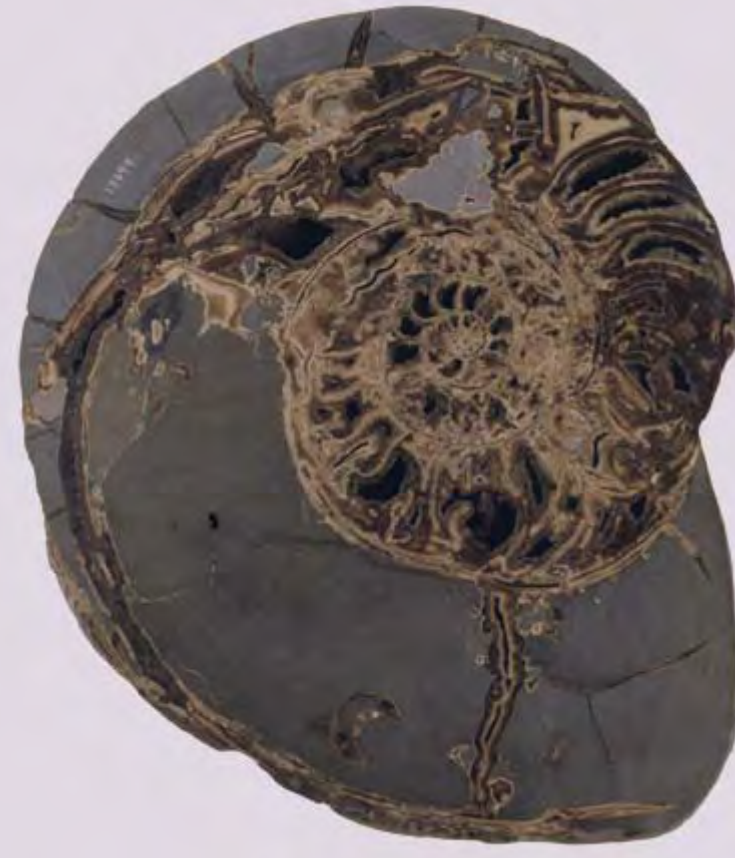
Much of the knowledge we have acquired about early history has been as a result of archaeologists' work in recovering valuable artifacts. Examples of common artifacts include tools (such as arrowheads), containers (pottery), clothing or jewelry, and other similar objects.

Of course, while the artifacts themselves are important, what is even more important is the analysis of the artifact, or what the artifact can tell about a culture. Such analysis is usually done by comparing the placement of the objects to other objects. For example, seashells found inland would have been moved from the coast and a bowl containing jewelry was probably not used to carry water.

## Lincoln's Illinois

In celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday, the Illinois State Museum has created the temporary exhibit entitled *From Humble Beginnings: Lincoln's Illinois 1830-1861*.

This exhibit immerses you in life as it was for all Illinoisans during Lincoln's time here, helping you to better understand the other exhibits at Lincoln's Home and the Presidential Museum. Learn how Illinois transformed from a prairie into an agricultural center and experience what it would have been like to live here 175 years ago.



## Peoples of the Past

Illinois first attracted people 12,000 years ago, when the Paleo-Indians came to



America across the Bering Strait between Russia and Alaska. At this time, Ice Age mammoths and mastodons roamed Illinois, who provided food for the peoples who roamed the country.

Eventually the people learned to make use of the rich natural soil of the Americas and abundance of plants to change their way of life forever.

This exhibit features four life-sized exhibits which give snapshots in prehistoric societal evolution:

1. Hunters and Gatherers
2. Gardeners
3. Agriculturists
4. Native Americans of Lincoln's Time

Each period shows distinct differences in ways of life including diet, social and political structure, and trade.

Each of these periods show a world different than the world we live in today, but you should be able to make comparisons and trace the path from native Illinois to the Illinois of today. The changes in social and political structure as well as technology that occurred in these times has led to many of the successes and problems we are experiencing now.

