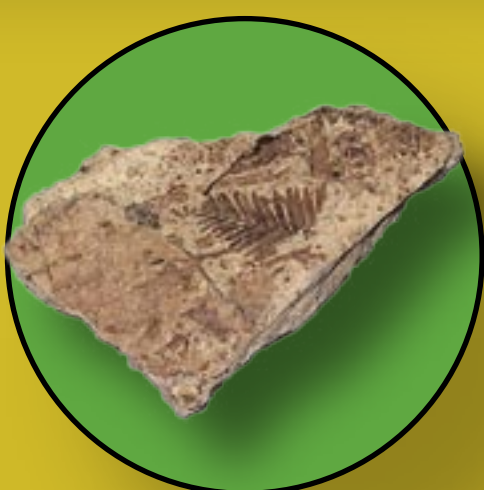
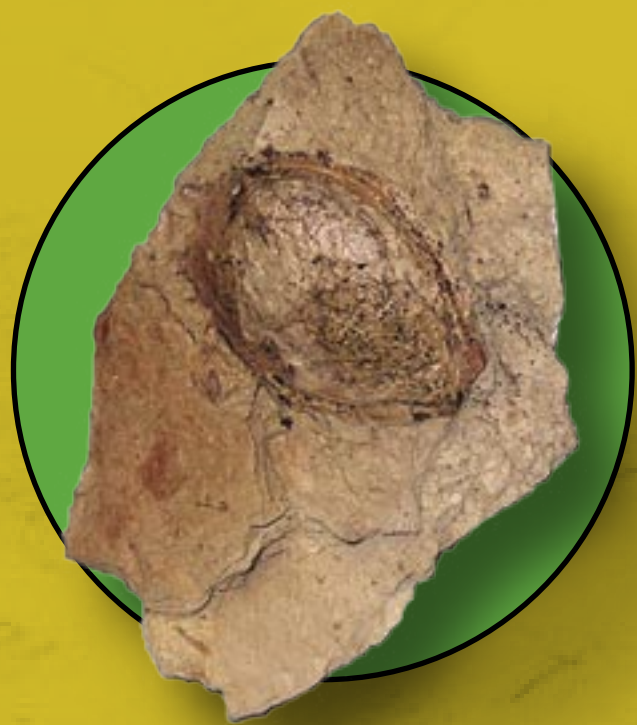


Saskatchewan research on fossil plants is changing our understanding of the environment Scotty the T. rex and other dinosaurs lived in 65 million years ago.

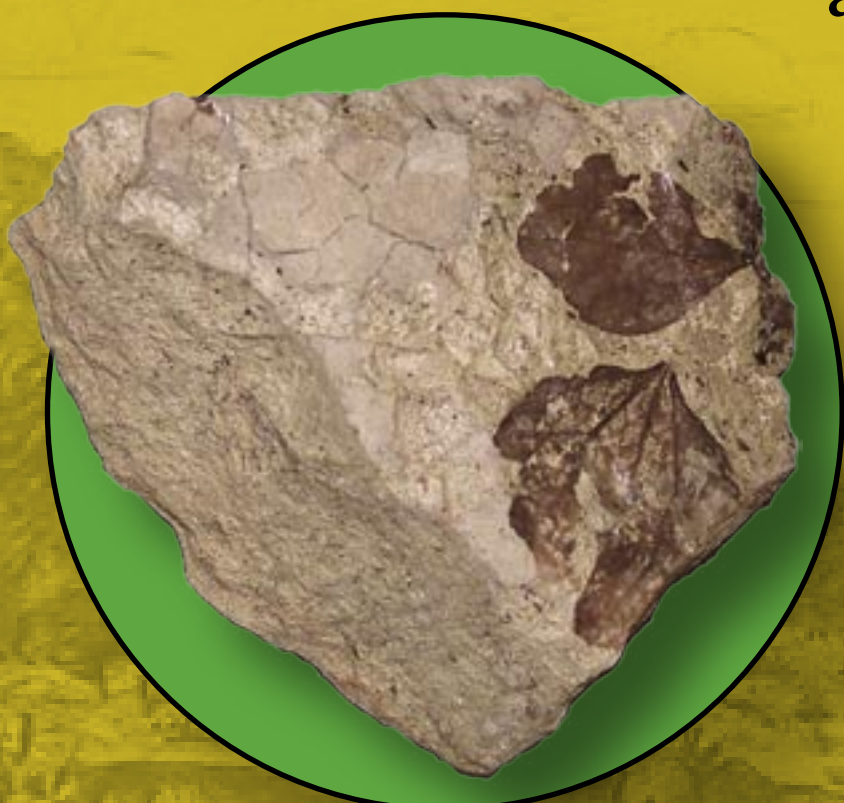
New glimpses of Cretaceous Saskatchewan



Twig of a Bald Cypress-like conifer



Palm seed



Leaves from a broadleaf tree

This artist's sketch for the new mini-diorama shows how southwestern Saskatchewan may have looked 65 million years ago.

A team of artists and technicians will be changing this display in the coming months based on new research by Saskatchewan scientists. The original mini-diorama was built in 1989. At that time, very few Cretaceous period (dinosaur-aged) plant fossils had been found inside Saskatchewan, but that changed in 1994 during the excavation of Scotty the *T. rex*.

What kind of landscape did he and other dinosaurs live in? Based on plant fossils from similar age sites outside of the province, we had thought it was a semi-tropical, dense forest as shown in the original mini-diorama. However, research on the large variety of plant fossils found in the *T. rex* quarry along with Scotty suggests that the environment in southwestern Saskatchewan was more open and included a broad river valley with forested lowlands. Plants such as palms, broadleaf trees, and conifers similar to Bald Cypress made up this forest at the end of the age of dinosaurs.

The changes to this mini-diorama illustrate the role of ongoing scientific research in improving our understanding of local geological and fossil history. RSM research is continuing to clarify our understanding of this and many other amazing Saskatchewan environments.



RSM scientists carefully chipped away the rock exposing bones from Scotty, other animals, as well as many plant fossils.



The old mini-diorama shows a dense forest environment.



Be sure to watch for the RSM's traveling display "New glimpses of *T. rex* and its world" for more information about this environment, an up close look at Scotty's skull, and more!