Geology: Hagerman Fossil Beds

Exercise: 1

Instructions: The Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Hagerman, Idaho is famous for the wide variety of fossils that can be found there. This site is particularly famous for the Hagerman Horse that once roamed Idaho. By doing this activity, you will have a much better understanding about the Hagerman Fossil Beds and what fossils tell us about geologic history.

1. How did the Hagerman Valley form?

2. What have scientists learned about the ancient climate of Idaho from the fossils found at Hagerman Fossil Beds? Describe the paleoclimate for this region based on the flora and faunal data. Has the climate of today changed from Hagerman days?

3. Describe the differences between the paleofloras and faunas during the Hagerman days and the flora and fauna of today.

4. Describe the depositional environment of the different strata and how this helps us to understand paleoclimate and paleoenvironments.

5. What is the general geology of the Hagerman Fossil Beds?