# **“The Story of Ashfall Fossil Beds”**

## **Panorama View - Visitor Center Exit:**

These questions could be used after the class views the video together or assigned to students individually to complete as they watch the video.

1. What were some of the clues that gave Voorhies an expectation of finding fossils in this location?
2. What was the first fossil that Voorhies found?
3. What was remarkable about this first fossil?
4. How many more fossils did Voorhies find right after excavating the first one?
5. When he found these fossils so quickly, what did that indicate to Voorhies about this site?
6. What year did they organize the dig?
7. How large an area did the paleontologists excavate in two years?
8. What were two other animals found in this dig besides rhinos?
9. Why did Voorhies want to use hand tools instead of power tools for the dig?
10. What are some of the hand tools that they were using?
11. Why were some of those digging wearing masks?
12. How is fossil digging similar to farming?
13. What short-legged animal in Africa today is similar to the rhinos at Ashfall?
14. What is a possible explanation for why the rhino had sharp teeth even though it was a plant-eater?
15. What was the main clue on the skull of the rhino that led Voorhies to proclaim it was a female?

## **State Standards:**

### **Science:**

SC.3.7.2.b Analyze and interpret datafrom fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and environments in which they lived long ago.

SC.3.7.2.d Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problemcaused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.

SC.8.10.5.a Analyze and interpret datafor patterns in the fossil record that document the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of life forms throughout the history of life on Earth under the assumption that natural laws operate today as in the past.

SC.HS.7.2.c Evaluate the claims, evidence, and reasoningthat the interactions in ecosystems maintain relatively consistent numbers and types of organisms in stable conditions but changing conditions may result in a new ecosystem.

SC.HS.10.5.e and SC.HSP.10.5.e Evaluate the evidencesupporting claims that changes in environmental conditions may result in: (1) increases in the number of individuals of some species, (2) the emergence of new species over time, and (3) the extinction of other species.

### **Social Studies:**

SS 3.3.2.c Explain how and why places and regions change over time.

SS 3.3.3.b Identify ecosystems.

SS 4.3.3.b Identify examples of ecosystems in Nebraska and describe related environmental issues.