

# “Arctic Evidence Eight”

## AN ALLIANCE OF GLOBAL ARCTIC NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

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- Natural history museum collections hold the record of nature over time and provide a foundation for creating knowledge essential to a better, more sustainable natural future. These collections include millions of specimens from the Arctic, yet museums have been largely on the periphery of Arctic science and Arctic data discussions.
- The national natural history museums of the Arctic Council states have an important role to play in inspiring respect and understanding of the Arctic – through impactful programs of research, collections management and public engagement in a 21<sup>st</sup> century context.
- The "Arctic Evidence Eight" is an alliance of eight national Natural History Museums in the eight Arctic Council countries:** Canadian Museum of Nature; Finnish Museum of Natural History; Icelandic Institute of Natural History; National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; Natural History Museum of Denmark; Natural History Museum, University of Oslo; Swedish Museum of Natural History; and Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.
- These national museums hold substantive collections of Arctic flora and fauna, fossils, minerals and rocks, as well as cultural artefacts and genetic and cryogenic resources.
- “Arctic Evidence Eight” scientists are engaged in Arctic exploration and discovery, and have research expertise in diverse Arctic disciplines, such as taxonomy and systematics of Arctic fishes, marine invertebrates, lichens and plants, Arctic ecology, environmental monitoring, climate change monitoring, evolutionary genomics, DNA barcoding and Arctic culture, human history and exploration.
- The Arctic Eight are engaged in finding ways to better work with each other and the broader scientific community to advance Arctic research and collection development, and engage, inspire and educate citizens about the global Arctic.



375-million-year old fossils of the “fishapod” *Tiktaalik roseae*, discovered in 2004 on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, Canada, are housed in the Nunavut Palaeontology Collection at the Canadian Museum of Nature. *Tiktaalik* looks like a cross between the primitive fish it lived amongst and the first four-legged animals (tetrapods).

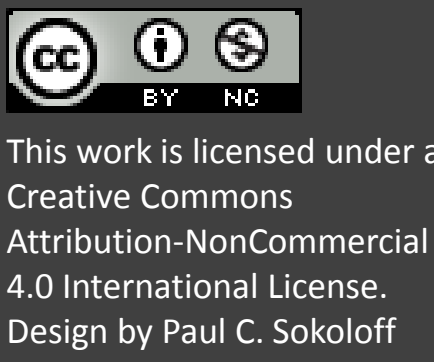
### Arctic Knowledge

- Canada**  
Centre for Arctic Knowledge and Exploration
- United States**  
Arctic Studies Center
- Sweden**  
Environmental Monitoring
- Finland**  
Climate Change Monitoring
- Norway**  
Centre for Arctic Research
- Iceland**  
Ecological Consulting Centre
- Denmark**  
Centre for Nordic Earth Evolution
- Russia**  
Zoological Archives of Arctic and Antarctic Exploration

### Arctic Evidence

- Canada**  
14.6 million specimens (ca. 1 million Arctic)
- United States**  
128 million specimens (ca. 152,000 Arctic)
- Sweden**  
10.1 million specimens
- Finland**  
13 million specimens
- Norway**  
2.2 million specimens
- Iceland**  
1.5 million specimens (ca. 500,000 Arctic)
- Denmark**  
14 million
- Russia**  
60 million specimens

The number of Arctic natural history specimens in museums worldwide is unknown.



Canadian Museum of Nature. Ottawa, Canada.

Photo: Martin Lipman



National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Washington, DC, USA.

Photo: Melizabeth123 (CC BY-SA 3.0)



Swedish Museum of Natural History. Stockholm, Sweden.

Photo: Gumiza (CC BY-SA 3.0)



Natural History Museum of Denmark. Copenhagen, Denmark.

Photo: Public Domain



Finnish Museum of Natural History. Helsinki, Finland.

Photo: Public Domain



Natural History Museum, University of Oslo. Oslo, Norway.

Photo: Nickrds09 (CC BY-SA 3.0)



Icelandic Institute of Natural History. Garðabær, Iceland.

Photo: © Vigfus Birgisson



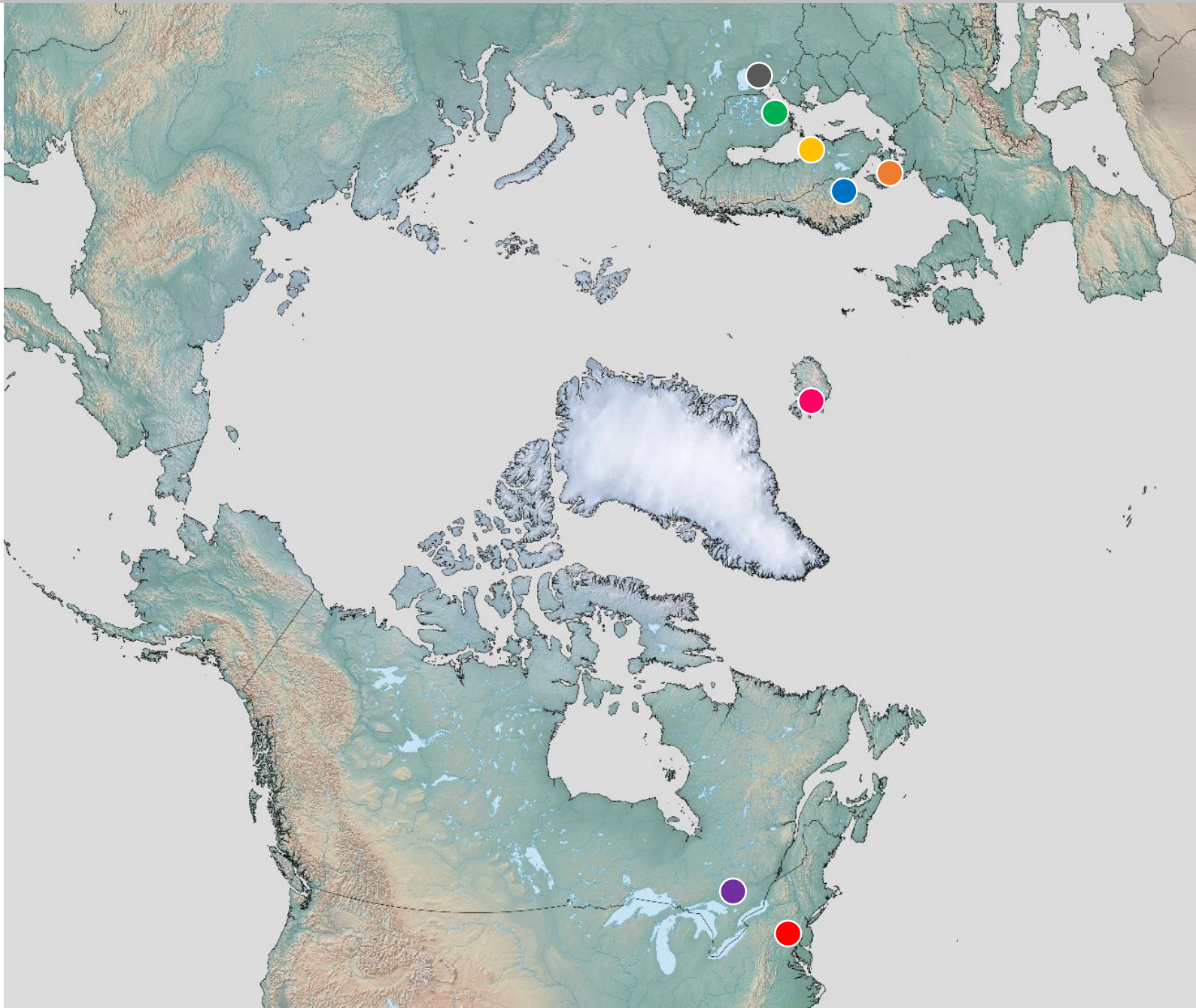
Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation.

Photo: Dezidor (CC BY-SA 3.0)



The Canada Goose Arctic Gallery at the Canadian Museum of Nature, opened on June 21 2017.

Concept: Canadian Museum of Nature



Location of “Arctic Eight” member institutions.

Map: SimpleMappr (Shorthouse, 2010).



Natural history museums inspire respect and understanding of the Arctic through engaging exhibitions, such as Mammoths! Giants of the Ice Age at the Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, BC. The millions of Arctic specimens housed in natural history museums, such as this Arctic vascular plant collection, represent critical baseline data that serve as a foundation for understanding and tracking environmental change.



Photos: J.M. Saarela and P.C. Sokoloff, Canadian Museum of Nature