

The long view— a walk through climate history



Part 1 Looking back in time

Part 2 History of the Earth

Looking back in time

Why study paleoclimate?

How do we know what we know about past climate?

How large is natural climate variability?

What causes it?



Scene depicting animals that lived around 40,000 years ago whose bones were excavated from the La Brea tar pits in Southern California. Work of William Gordon Huff displayed at the Golden Gate International Exposition 1939. www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/archives/abouthuff.html

Why study paleoclimate?

It gives us an appreciation of the natural variability upon which human-induced climate change is superimposed

It teaches us about the processes that control climate variability

It provides estimates of the sensitivity of the climate system that are applicable to human-induced warming

It's really interesting



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