

DINOSAUR FOREST

This mural is an artist's depiction of a conifer forest in Montana, 110 million years ago during the age of the dinosaurs. A herd of plant-eating, beaked *Tenontosaurus* scans the surroundings warily, perhaps sensing danger nearby. The danger they detect may be predatory *Deinonychus*; one can be seen darting into the underbrush on the left.

Although much smaller than *Tenontosaurus*, *Deinonychus*' speed and slashing talons made them cunning killers. (See the **Terrible Claw** panel, down the hall to your right.) Teeth belonging to *Deinonychus* have been found with some *Tenontosaurus* fossils, evidence of hunting or scavenging or both.

In the background, you can also see an armored *Ankylosaurus* lumbering up the creek, two grazing *Brontosaurus*, and several *Pteranodons* flying overhead, with wingspans of up to 9 meters (30 feet). Hunkered in the underbrush is a small mammal, portent of things to come. Only after the extinction of the dinosaurs, 65 million years ago, would mammals rise to dominance.

Do the plants in this scene look familiar? They should. Redwood trees grow in California today, as do the ginkgo, bald cypress, ferns, and horsetails also shown. For more on the plants in this mural, see the **Out Of the Woods** panel (down the hall to your right and on the facing wall).

Mural's original location: California Academy of Sciences — *Life Through Time Exhibit*
Artists: Brooke Fancher, Dan Fontes, and Bill Snyder (painted in 1992).