

Otozoum Activity #2 – The Mystery of what Scraped the Otozoum Tracks

In Activity 1 we looked at the Otozoum tracks, and some very small tracks at section 1 in our interactive 3D computer model of the rock slab found in Portland, CT in the late 1800s. These tracks located at section 1 could be made by a hopping mammal approximately 200 million years ago during the Early Jurassic! Did you notice the little faint line between the four tracks? What could this be? . . . Could this indicate that the ancient animal had a tail that was dragging on the ground? Feel free to keep investigating!

During your investigations, did you notice that large scrape between the two right most otozoum tracks? This feature is located at sections 3 and 5 in the 3D computer model. This activity will investigate that mysterious feature. So let's break out your science notebook and start our exploration!



Suggested Activities

1. Visit the model at: <https://skfb.ly/6R7Ct>
2. Zoom in and look around.
 - a. What do you notice about the features?
 - b. Did the long scrape come before or after otozoum tracks? How do you know?
3. In order to investigate what could have made this long scrape feature, it would be helpful to know what the environment was at the time.
4. Using the internet and books, see if you can determine what sort of environment Connecticut had around 200 million years ago. Look back in our GeoScience Activity #1 and #2. This may help you to figure out where Connecticut was at the time relative to the equator. This can give you a clue as to what climate was like.
5. After getting a sense of the climate in Connecticut 200 million years ago, do a search to identify locations today that have similar climates.
6. Thinking about this information, and what you know about ancient life; What do you think it could be? Could it be made by a dinosaur? A crocodile like ancient reptile dragging it's tail? Perhaps simply a rock that is moving across the ground?

Post questions in the comments on our [Facebook page!](#)

The 3D models at this link were created by Dr. James A. Hyatt (Environmental Earth Science Department, Eastern Connecticut State University) as part of ongoing collaborations with other colleagues. These models were built using numerous highquality images captured from many angles which were then analyzed using digital photogrammetry software and other tools. All work was undertaken with permission from the Dinosaur State Park.

Please post questions to our Facebook page or email michael.p.ross@ct.gov.

