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## EQUITY, CULTURE, AND PLACE IN TEACHING PALEONTOLOGY

*Student-Centered Pedagogy for  
Broadening Participation*

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# Equity, Culture, and Place in Teaching Paleontology

## Student-Centered Pedagogy for Broadening Participation

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**Abstract:** The diversity crisis in paleontology refers not to modern biota or the fossil record, but rather how our discipline lacks significant representation of individuals varying in race, ethnicity, and other aspects of identity. This Element is a call to action for broadening participation through improved classroom approaches as described in four sections. First, a brief review of the crisis and key concepts are presented. Next, culturally responsive pedagogy and related practices are introduced. Third, specific applications are offered for drawing cultural connections to studying the fossil record. Finally, recommendations including self-reflection are provided for fostering your own cultural competency. Our discipline offers much for understanding Earth history and contributing new knowledge to a world impacted by humans. However, we must first more effectively welcome, support, and inspire all students to embrace meaning and value in paleontology; it is critical for securing the future of our field.

**Keywords:** Diversity, Inclusion, Culturally Relevant Teaching, Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, Fossils & Earth History

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