

Field trip to Parnaíba Basin and visit to the American Man Museum

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The inauguration of the American Man Museum has had the effect of making the far southeast region of the Parnaíba basin even more appealing for field trips. This paper reports on the field trip experience with Piauí State University students from the biology course in the subject of paleontology.

Pre-field activities (inductive), field (illustrative and motivating) and post-field (evaluating and reporting) were carried out.

During the field trip the students visited pleistocenic paleontological sites, the Capivara hills environment park, which preserves the dry Savannah-vegetation, so called "caatinga" ecosystem species, showing not only ecological problems - such as those related to lime mining in the park limit, forbidden by law-, but also ecological solutions of low environmental impact like the solar energy-based lighting set up in the limestone cave of Barra de Cima dos Pilão site.

In the museum, human skeleton bones and the extinct pleistocenic fauna were seen. Emphasis was given to a well-lit, illustrative and very outstanding panel representing the weather-changing phases of pleistocene, motivating students to go on a "paleo-environmental" trip.

Such an experience allowed the students to have an interdisciplinary understanding of problems, better knowledge of the environment dynamics, relating today's man to his ancestors in the environmental and paleoenvironmental context.