

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# HIGHLIGHTS OF "HADROSAURUS FOULKII: THE DINOSAUR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD"

PHILADELPHIA—Visitors to "*Hadrosaurus foulkii*: The Dinosaur That Changed the World" will feel like they stepped back in time to the Victorian period. Dramatic lighting, period colors and detailed recreations evoke a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Philadelphia, at a time when The Academy of Natural Sciences was the only place in the world to see a dinosaur skeleton. Here are some highlights of the exhibit:

#### Hadrosaurus foulkii

The centerpiece is the fully mounted skeleton of *H.foulkii*, positioned in an accurate posture, measuring 25 feet long, on four legs with tail held aloft. The original skeletal mount from 1868 portrayed the plant-eater in a more upright posture with its tail dragging. Today's skeleton is made up of casts of *H. foulkii*'s real fossilized bones, mirrored duplicates of those bones, casts from other hadrosaurs, and a cast of a modified skull of a close relative. The original iguana-like skull created for the 1868 mount is nearby.

#### Marl Pit at John Hopkins' Farm

The fossils of *H. foulkii* were first dug up in the 1830s by marl-diggers on the farm of John Hopkins in Haddonfield, N.J. At the time, farmers used marl as fertilizer. The diggers had no idea the large black objects were dinosaur bones, and they gave them away. Two decades later, William Parker Foulke, a naturalist and Academy member who had heard about the odd bones, returned to the site and found more fossils. Visitors will see a recreation of the pit and display cases containing the real fossils, now part of the Academy's permanent collection. An audio slideshow tells the story of the discovery and a hands-on interactive lets visitors learn to identify a fossil.

### Joseph Leidy's Office

This recreation of Dr. Joseph Leidy's office looks like he just stepped away from working on his scientific description of *H. foulkii*. In the center stands the original desk he used at the Academy, surrounded by his specimens, tools and books. An audio slideshow tells the remarkable story of his long, productive career. A hands-on interactive lets visitors assemble dinosaur bones.

#### Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins' Studio

Casts of dinosaur fossils sit on shelves, and tables are littered with sketches and diagrams of dinosaur skeletons. An audio slideshow tells the story of how the British artist-naturalist assembled the first dinosaur skeleton in the world. A hands-on interactive lets visitors discover how our understanding of what dinosaurs looked like has changed over time.

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