1
00:00:00,050 --> 00:00:04,240
Ray Stanford: This part on my right was the part that was sticking above

2
00:00:04,240 --> 00:00:08,300
the ground when I made the discovery and I recognized

3
00:00:08,300 --> 00:00:12,360
immediately that we're looking at a large footprint of a armored dinosaur, a Nodosaur.

4
00:00:12,360 --> 00:00:16,400
And, it was not until we excavated the

5
00:00:16,400 --> 00:00:20,590
dirt out of the back of it that we realized a baby dinosaur had stepped in it; and a lot of other

6
00:00:20,590 --> 00:00:24,640
activity was going on. Martin Lockley: We're looking at

7
00:00:24,640 --> 00:00:28,750
the largest known slab that has mammal tracks

8
00:00:28,750 --> 00:00:32,850
on it from anywhere in the world. I know of about four or five sites

9
00:00:32,850 --> 00:00:37,000
in the whole age of dinosaurs that have mammal tracks and some of them only have one or

10
00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:41,170
two and here we've got approximately a hundred footprints on it. It's amazing!

11
00:00:41,170 --> 00:00:45,340
Well this whole area here, is very, very, interesting

12
00:00:45,340 --> 00:00:49,520
because we have these nice five toed tracks, theirs actually

13
00:00:49,520 --> 00:00:53,550

a pair here. So we have a left and a right, and as mammals

14
00:00:53,550 --> 00:00:57,690
we have five fingers and five toes, and so these are our

15
00:00:57,690 --> 00:01:01,700
cretaceous ancestors you might say. For a comparison

16
00:01:01,700 --> 00:01:05,730
you could look at this track, it has three toes and that

17
00:01:05,730 --> 00:01:09,760
is just typical of a modern bird, or the ancestor

18
00:01:09,760 --> 00:01:13,830
of a modern bird, which was a small theropod dinosaur.

19
00:01:13,830 --> 00:01:17,920
This one here is very small, it’s the size of

20
00:01:17,920 --> 00:01:22,030
a squirrel track and has its toes going in this direction.

21
00:01:22,030 --> 00:01:26,190
Ray Stanford: I find this very exciting because of the kind of details we can see.

22
00:01:26,190 --> 00:01:30,360
And see how sharp these claws were. Martin Lockley: What's special about this

23
00:01:30,360 --> 00:01:34,400
track is that it is the largest mammal track on this surface and

24
00:01:34,400 --> 00:01:38,470
indeed it’s the largest mammal track known from the age of dinosaurs.

25
00:01:38,470 --> 00:01:42,550
During the age of dinosaurs we’ve traditionally regarded most

26
00:01:42,550 --> 00:01:46,660
mammals as the size of rodents, rats, and squirrels and so forth.

27
00:01:46,660 --> 00:01:50,800
It is very rare to find anything this big. I mean this was an animal that was

28
00:01:50,800 --> 00:01:54,960
maybe the size of a badger. This was a big animal by mammal standards from the

29
00:01:54,960 --> 00:01:59,000
age of dinosaurs.

30
00:01:59,000 --> 00:02:03,040
Ray Stanford: What excites me about this slab found at Goddard Space Flight Center,

31
00:02:03,040 --> 00:02:07,090
is that this shows us the actual life in action

32
00:02:07,090 --> 00:02:11,150
of all this incredible diversity. From the flying reptiles,

33
00:02:11,150 --> 00:02:15,270
to the large dinosaurs, to the very small or tiniest

34
00:02:15,270 --> 00:02:19,430
perhaps dinosaurs. And three, four, five types of

35
00:02:19,430 --> 00:02:23,460
mammals. In fact, it shows us not the dead

36
00:02:23,460 --> 00:02:27,550
but life is almost like a time machine. We can look across

37
00:02:27,550 --> 00:02:31,710
I guess, maybe two weeks of activity of animals

38
00:02:31,710 --> 00:02:35,760

and we can almost picture it unlike if we were just looking at bones.

39
00:02:35,760 --> 00:02:39,820
We see the interaction, how they pass in relationship to one another.

40
00:02:39,820 --> 00:02:43,900
So what we have here from Goddard, is looking

41
00:02:43,900 --> 00:02:47,990
deeply into ancient time on the Earth, and I think it's just tremendously

42
00:02:47,990 --> 00:02:52,110
exciting.