

# ART IMPACT 2023 | CRATER ART CONTEST

## Call for Student Entries!

Students are invited to create artwork related to the Wetumpka Impact Crater and Cretaceous Period

Sponsored by the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission

For additional information & inspiration please visit our Art Impact Website at

<https://www.wetumpkacraterart.org>

**Youth:** Open to all school age youth.

(Grades K – 12)

Works on Paper (Use 8 1/2" x 11" format-printed art template)

– See **What to Do** (page 2)

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### Submission Cycle Deadlines:

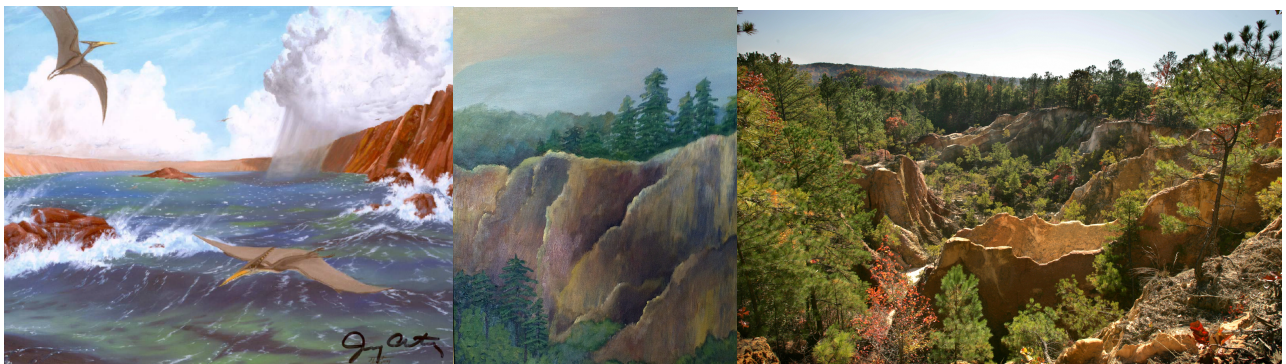
- 1 End of School: Thursday, June 1, 2023
- 2 Summer Break/Camp: Tuesday, July 31, 2023
- 3 Back to School: Wednesday, August 23, 2023

Feel free to submit student art in all three cycles! We actually would love that!

### Mail Submissions to:

Crater Art  
801 Mansion Street  
Wetumpka, AL 36092

Exhibition Dates: August 31, 2023-September 15, 2023



Jerry Armstrong

Shirley Esco

Barry Chrietzberg

# ART IMPACT 2023 | CRATER ART CONTEST

## Information | Rules | Awards

Students are invited to create artwork related to the Wetumpka Impact Crater and Cretaceous Period

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### AWARDS:

Grades K – 5:	1 <sup>st</sup> \$25   2 <sup>nd</sup> \$15   3 <sup>rd</sup> \$10	Additional awards may be given at the discretion of the adjudication committee.
Grades 6 – 8:	1 <sup>st</sup> \$50   2 <sup>nd</sup> \$25   3 <sup>rd</sup> \$15	
Grades 9 – 12:	1 <sup>st</sup> \$75   2 <sup>nd</sup> \$50   3 <sup>rd</sup> \$25	

### STUDENT RULES:

- Student entries are due: **3 Submission Cycles**
  - 1 End of School: Thursday, June 1, 2023
  - 2 Summer Break/Camp: Tuesday, July 31, 2023
  - 3 Back to School: Wednesday, August 23, 2023Feel free to submit student art in all three cycles! We actually would love that!
- **What to do:** Simply print the art template on any type of white paper that will feed through your printer (copy paper, card stock, lightweight watercolor paper, etc.) Have your students create their masterpieces in the upper-white rectangular space and fill in their personal information in the lower portion (please print your info neatly) – no matting or mounting necessary. After that... all you need to do is slip your students entries (with the entry form taped to the back of each entry) in the mail to us! We'll take care of it from there!
  - \* OPTION 1: You could use the printed template as a mat if printed on heavy card stock paper- simply cut out the upper white rectangle, create your art on another piece of paper, and tape it to the back of the printed template/mat... then attach your entry form to the back.
  - \* OPTION 2: if the template is printed on heavy card stock paper-you could create your art on another piece of paper that is the exact size of the upper white rectangle, then mount it in that space on the template..... then attach your entry form to the back.
- **Entries should include** content relating to the impact crater, the meteorite and/or impact, the surrounding area and population (dinosaurs & ocean life) or plants around the time of impact during the Cretaceous Period.
- **Mail Submissions to:** Crater Art, 801 Mansion Street, Wetumpka, AL 36092

### General Information

- Winners will be announced at the reception August 31, 2023
- Judges will include at least one artist and at least one member of the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission.
- Winning entries will be displayed in Wetumpka, AL: August 31, 2023- September 15, 2023
- Selected works will be given further instructions.
- Artists will retain ultimate ownership of their entries. Images will be digitally photographed and the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission reserves the right to use images for publicity purposes.
- **Copyright: Respect the intellectual property of others.** Work that is a direct copy of another artist's composition and/or work will be refused. See: [http://www.cyberbee.com/cb\\_copyright.swf](http://www.cyberbee.com/cb_copyright.swf)

### JUDGING CRITERIA:

- Content, Creativity and Technical Skill
- Relativity to Wetumpka Impact Crater
- Work may range from realistic to abstract
- Artist's Voice and Originality

### ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS:

1. Student Entry Form
2. Student Entry Form
3. Printable Art Template
4. Options

# About the Wetumpka Impact Crater | Resources & History

## Resources: "Where the Star Fell"

- A panoramic view of the highest point on the crater rim at Bald Knob is visible from routes into town.
- The Coosa River flows across the western edge of the crater. From the Bibb Graves Bridge one can easily see the upturned rocks tilting in the direction of the crater.
- Outcroppings of dramatically upturned rock formations are visible along U.S. Highway 231.
- Art Impact educational power points – <https://artquest.wixsite.com/wetumpkacraterart>
- To view 2015 entries please visit - <https://artquest.wixsite.com/wetumpkacraterart>

## What is the Wetumpka Impact Crater?

Wetumpka, Alabama, sits right on the bull's eye of the greatest natural disaster in Alabama's history. The hills just east of downtown are the eroded remains of a five-mile wide Impact Crater that was blasted into the bedrock of Elmore County. The mighty blast occurred near the end of the Age of the Dinosaurs, about 85 million years ago. All around the circular pattern of hills that make up the remaining rim of the crater, the hard rocks of the Piedmont are bent sharply and point away from the center of the impact. The normally horizontal layers of more recent surface rocks are mixed in and around the crater suggesting an incredible explosion that would have destroyed all life for a radius of about forty miles.

## How was it discovered?

Geologically speaking, something is wrong with the vaguely circular patch of hills located immediately south and east of Wetumpka. Normally in this area, the soft sedimentary rocks of the Coastal Plain smoothly overlap the harder and older metamorphic rocks of the Piedmont, but at Wetumpka, this is not the case. In the crater area, rocks of more than two hundred million years difference in age are intermixed. At Bald Knob, where communication towers overlook Wetumpka, a curved ridge of very old metamorphic rock protrudes seven hundred feet above its normal level through jumbled layers of much younger rocks. Below the surface, the entire area is surrounded by concentric rings of fractures and zones of shattered rock. Nowhere else along the 2,250 mile border of the Piedmont does anything similar exist.

In 1891, State Geologist Eugene Allen Smith noted the unusual nature of the Wetumpka area, and for many years the area was marked on geological maps as "structurally disturbed".

In 1972, Geological Survey of Alabama Geologist Tony Neathery was heading a team that was making detailed geologic maps of Elmore County. They had been mapping for several months, but as they approached Wetumpka, they started finding rock layers that were bent at dramatically different angles and directions than other rocks in the area. As they measured and mapped, it became clear that all these features were pointing toward the hills east of Wetumpka. When they looked at these hills, the rocks in the center seemed chaotically disturbed and intermixed, very unlike the evenly horizontal rocks surrounding the area.

In 1976, they published their findings, calling the feature an Astrobleme, literally, a "star wound." For a number of years, this conclusion was greeted with skepticism by most geologists. During 1998 two wells were drilled into the bedrock and core samples were extracted for testing. Geologist hoped to find materials proving the "star wound" theory. The research team was headed by Dr. David T. King Jr. Professor of Geology, Auburn University. The researchers indeed found the core contained shocked quartz, which can only be formed by an enormous explosion such as a large meteor impact.

Dr. Peter Schultz, a Brown University authority on impact craters visited the site in 1999 and affirmed the previous findings. Christian Koeberl Institute of Geochemistry, University of Vienna, an international expert on impact craters also examined the evidence and confirmed the presence of shocked quartz and other minerals that would definitely confirm the site as an impact crater. In the fall of 2002 the scientist published the evidence and established the site as an internationally recognized impact crater. It is believed that at the time of the impact the area was covered by a shallow sea of up to 100 feet in depth, making this one of the best preserved marine impact craters in the world.

## How big was it?

As a rule of thumb, a hypervelocity projectile causes a crater of about twenty times its diameter. Given the diameter of the Wetumpka crater and using this formula, the meteorite is estimated to have had a diameter of about 1000 feet. Since no fragments of the meteorite have been recovered (most of it probably vaporized upon impact), the composition of the object is not known, but since stony meteorites are far more common than iron meteorites, the former would seem to be the best guess. To give one some idea of how large this object was, the Wetumpka meteorite is said to have been large enough to fill the entire bowl of Jordan-Hare Stadium at Auburn University.

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## Student Requirements & Timeline

The enormity of the Wetumpka explosion is hard to comprehend. The impact of a large object traveling at 40,000 miles per hour would cause an explosion that would dwarf even the largest thermonuclear weapons.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUTH

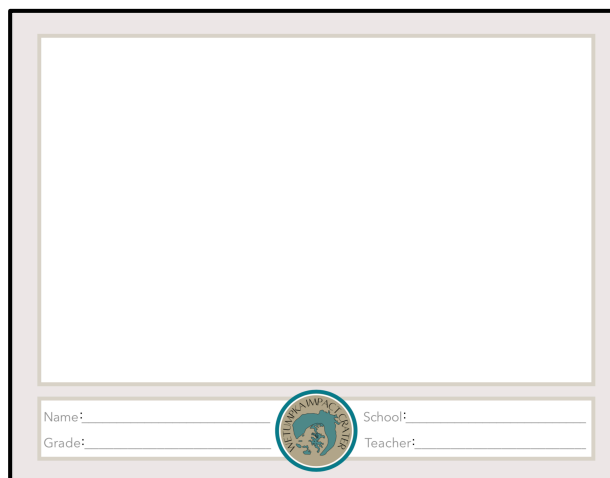
\*STUDENTS MUST CREATE THEIR ART ON OUR 8 ½" X 11" PRINTABLE ART TEMPLATE.

\*ANY **WHITE PAPER** THAT WILL FEED THROUGH YOUR PRINTER IS ACCEPTABLE.

\***DO NOT MAT OR MOUNT ART.**

\***TAPE ENTRY FORM TO BACK OF ART.**

\*See "What to do" on Page 2.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

### Timeline | YOUTH (Grades K-12)

March-August, 2023: Create Art- Must use our PRINTABLE TEMPLATE. Download at:

<https://www.wetumpkacraterart.org>

2023 Submission Cycle Deadlines- (Art must be received by the dates below.)

Feel free to submit student art in all three cycles!

\*1 End of School: Thursday, June 1, 2023

\*2 Summer Break/Camp: Tuesday, July 31, 2023

\*3 Back to School: Wednesday, August 23, 2023

Mail to: Crater Art, 801 Mansion St., Wetumpka, AL 36092

Exhibit Opens: Thursday, August 31, 2023

Opening Reception-Winners Announced: Thursday, August 31, 2023, 5:30-6:30 PM

Exhibit Closes: Friday, September 15, 2023

Art Returned: September 30, 2023