

Parts script for
“Coming Home to North America Ritual”
for 2 narrators and 12 to 20 participants

(participants do not read scripts; they simply act out parts)

written by Connie Barlow, August 2003

This version was first performed at Indralaya Retreat Center, Orcas Island, WA

[this to be used in conjunction with the 2-narrator script]

2 narrators

26 characters: Fern, ginkgo, little mammals / porcupine, salamander, lizard, turtle, rhino, **bird (diatryma & raven)**, **horse**, camel, dog, **cat**, tree frog, squirrel, **tornado**, **snake**, grasses, bear, elephant, **pronghorn & deer**, beaver, ground sloth, bison, landforms.

(possibly recruit someone to ring the chimes, when you signal)

If few people are present, combine these roles:

FERN + GRASSES;

SALAMANDER + TREE FROG + BEAVER;

LITTLE MAMMAL / PORCUPINE + SQUIRREL;

TORNADO + GROUND SLOTH;

RHINO + BISON

CHIMES – Use the chime whenever the narrator is honoring an extinction, and possibly also at other times when the narrator signals you to chime. You will have very important roles at the end for chiming a Moment of Silence for the destruction of the Native American peoples, and for honoring each of our ancestors when we stand in circle at the end. Also, if you are also asked to do drums or other instruments, watch for narrators to motion you when to do these things.

FERN – You will enter only once, early on.

- 65 million yrs ago, AFTER METEOR IMPACT – Act out fern spores entering the scorched landscape, arriving by wind from all directions.

GINKGO TREE – You will enter the action 3 different times:

- 65 million years ago, AFTER METEOR IMPACT – ginkgo trees, which had been widespread in the Arctic zone of North America during the dinosaur era (which was warm, a “greenhouse” era), begin to expand their habitat southward into what is now the United States, as few other trees were available to recolonize the scorched landscape. (MAKE SURE YOU ENTER FROM THE ARCTIC OCEAN.)

- 5 million years ago – The Narrator will say something like: I have some very sad news to report. TWO EXTINCTIONS are about to occur. I ask two life forms to please come forward to be honored: GINKGO and RHINO. [Narrator will pause for both of you to solemnly come into the continent, one on each side of the narrator, facing the audience.] Both Ginkgo and Rhino will live on in Eastern Hemisphere, but they must now go extinct in North America. *Let us have a moment of silence, as the CHIME sounds their departure.* [Stand solemnly looking at the audience, and then drop your head as the gong sounds. Wait until the CHIME sound is over, and then solemnly return to your seats, at the same time.]

- NOW. Let us turn the clock to NOW. In the most remarkable story, we welcome back a plant that co-evolved with the dinosaurs, once formed vast deciduous forests north of the Arctic circle, then crept down into much of North America after the meteor impact 65 million years ago. Remember that ginkgo went extinct here some 5 million years ago, dwindling in worldwide range eventually to just a few mountain slopes in a remote part of China. [STAND OVER WHERE CHINA WOULD BE.] Then, a hundred years ago, human botanists would discover this lost tree, the living fossil.

Come forward Ginkgo! [Walk with pride up to the narrator, and stand and face the audience.] Let us honor your return! It is only because of humans that you have not gone extinct, naturally. And now you can be found along sidewalks and in parking lots throughout our great land. [Maybe make the Namaste greeting of thanks toward the audience.] *Let us all say together, Welcome back, Ginkgo! Welcome back!* [AND THEN YOU CALL BACK, THANK YOU HUMANS, THANK YOU!]

LITTLE MAMMALS – You come in twice: right at the beginning, and then very late in the script. Enter continent and act this out as narrator speaks:

- 65 million years ago, AFTER METEOR IMPACT – some little mammals survived the meteor impact and period of darkness and cold, possibly by being lucky enough to be around hot springs. These little mammals come out from their burrows, using their keen noses to find their way, and feed on frozen dinosaurs during the dark, cold times.

- 3 million years ago – You will represent PORCUPINE, ARMADILLO, AND POSSUM, and you will begin in South America, waddling north across the newly emerged Isthmus of Panama, then coming far into North America.

TURTLE - You come in 4 times, the first is very early in the script:

- 64 million years ago – Narrator will call you forward early on, when talking about who survived the meteor impact. Stay up front while Landforms comes forward to birth the Rocky Mountains, because this will then lead immediately to the birth of the North American continent and:

- 62 million years ago – Enjoy being honored for: “Turtle Island is born!” Listen and act out your role in the Iroquois creation story that the narrator will tell.

- 32 million years ago – Act out as narrator says something like: Climate cools and many **TURTLES** go extinct. *Come forward Turtle, and let us honor you.* Come forward solemnly, perhaps bow to the audience, perhaps lower your head as the GONG strikes to mark your passing, and then return solemnly to your seat.

- 13,000 years ago - 8 groups of animals, you among them as GIANT LAND TORTOISES, will be asked one by one to step forward in silence, solemnly, line up on either side of the narrator (try to be in order from left to right), and face the audience. The narrator will then speak your name as you go extinct, and you will fall to the floor and stay there as the chime rings. Stay there until you are asked to go. Then return quietly to your seat.

SALAMANDER – You will come into North America, around the central Appalachians, and act out your part near the beginning of the script, right after little mammals survive the meteor impact.

LANDFORMS – You have a huge role! Act out these parts in silence:

- 60 million years ago – Act out the Rocky Mountains beginning to rise, when the narrator calls you forward. Start down on your belly or knees on the floor and then rise.

- 24 million years ago – Act out Rocky Mountains rising for a second time, as the narrator talks about this event. You will be “born again”, so you might jump around for joy as the narrator says Halleluia.

- 5 million years ago - Act out the Grand Canyon forming. Be the rising plateau (by getting on your knees huddled down, then slowly rising, as the narrator shows a river cutting down into you as you rise higher and higher.

- 3 million years ago – you will act out the Isthmus of Panama rising from the sea and connecting South America to North America for the first time since before the dinosaurs went extinct. Eventually stand with both arms stretched out, pointing south and north. Be prepared for animals to use you to transit between North and South America. This part takes a long time for narrator to read all this.

- 2.5 million years ago – The Pleistocene begins, with continental ice advancing and retreating 17 times. Use your arms like a snow shovel, facing audience, while you sweep north and south fast repeatedly. **STAY UP THERE** while the narrator continues for you to act out two more parts:

- 1 million years ago – Thank you, **LANDFORMS**. Now we need you to shed the cold and get boiling hot instead. First, stand over there by **Yellowstone** National Park, while the clock turns to **2 million years ago**. Now just blow up – in an explosion so huge that it makes Mount St. Helens explosion seem like a hiccup. What will remain will be geysers and hot springs.

And now, move over to just southeast of Seattle, while the clock turns to **1 million years ago**. You are now a little hill of andesite lava that is beginning to build and build into what will become **Mount Rainier!**

- 18,000 years ago – You act out the Ohio River being formed when the northward flowing river was deflected by a glacial lobe in Ohio, at the peak of the most recent glacial advance.

BEAVER - You enter the stage and act only once, fairly late in script.

- 9 million years ago, narrator will speak of you swimming up the rivers from Asia, across Beringia, and over and down into North America.

RHINOCEROS

- 55 million years ago – Act out ancestral rhinos immigrating into North America from their land of origin (Asia) across the Bering Land Bridge (Beringia), then into Alaska and then southward.

- 20 million years ago - when GRASS is called forward, listen for when “big mammals” are mentioned as grazing on grass, and go up to the front again and start grazing on GRASS. Stay up there roaming and grazing while the narrator speaks of “The Golden Age of Mammals.” And turn into a lawnmower when called to do so.

- 5 million years ago – The Narrator will say something like: I have some very sad news to report. TWO EXTINCTIONS are about to occur. I ask two life forms to please come forward to be honored: **GINKGO** and **RHINO**. [Narrator will pause for both of you to solemnly come into the continent, one on each side of the narrator, facing the audience.] Both Ginkgo and Rhino will live on in Eastern Hemisphere, but they must now go extinct in North America. *Let us have a moment of silence, as the Gong sounds their departure.* [Stand solemnly looking at the audience, and then drop your head as the gong sounds. Wait until the gong sound is over, and then solemnly return to your seats, at the same time.]

BIRD: You enter the stage twice:

- 55 million years ago – The narrator will speak of “a little marshbird” that flies into North America. Act this out, and then act as the narrator describes your evolving into a flightless, ten-foot tall predator that eats kills and eats mammals with its powerful beak (**Diatryma**)! Narrator will explain that soon this terrifying bird will spread to the north and east, invading Europe, and terrifying the mammals there too! – so do that too.

- 35 million years ago – Act this out, taking care to fly from the south up west of North America into Asia and then across to Alaska and down into our continent. The narrator will say something like: *I see a big black bird down in Australia, flying, flying, all the way to North America, by way of Asia. Who might that bird be???* **RAVEN!!** Raven is the only Australian native that has taken up residence in North America (and Europe, and Asia, and Africa too!) *Do I hear a flock of crows greeting Raven????*

HORSE - You will enter the stage and act 5 times.

- 50 million years ago – Come forward when the narrator calls for you. Act out the horse family (Equidae) originating in North America, and browsing on shrubs and flowers (there are no grasses yet). Make sure you gallop some and whinny. The Camel family will be joining you on stage at this time too, as it too originates now.

- 20 million years ago - when GRASS is called forward, listen for when “big mammals” are mentioned as grazing on grass, and go up to the front again and start grazing on GRASS. Stay up there roaming and grazing while the narrator speaks of “The Golden Age of Mammals.” And turn into a LAWNMOWER when called to do so.

- 3 million years ago – After Narrator talks about BEARS, they will say: Second, I now see an amazing migration happening in the reverse direction: heading out from North America into Asia. Come forward: HORSES and CAMELS and CHEETAH! Turtle Island is offering you to Asia and Africa, and it will be very important for you to do well in your new homelands, because, sadly, you will go extinct here! So, go forth and multiply HORSE, AND CAMEL, AND CHEETAH. And, by the way HORSE, when you get to Africa, why don't you evolve into a striped zebra! *Let us all wish them well: Go forth, Horse, go forth! Go forth, Camel, go forth! Go forth, Cheetah, go forth!* [GONG]

- 13,000 years ago. 8 groups of animals, you among them, will be asked one by one to step forward in silence, solemnly, line up on either side of the narrator (try to be in order from left to right), and face the audience. The narrator will then speak your name as you go extinct, and you will fall to the floor and stay there as the chime rings. Stay there until you are asked to go. Then return quietly to your seat.

- 500 years ago. Sail across the Atlantic from Europe and disperse onto the Great Plains, galloping for joy at being back home!!!!

CAMEL – You enter the stage and act on five separate occasions:

- 50 million years ago – Go forward when the narrator tells of how the camel family (Camelidae) originates here. Walk like a camel if you can. You may wish to bow to the audience so that they can acknowledge you.

- 20 million years ago - when GRASS is called forward, listen for when “big mammals” are mentioned as grazing on grass, and go up to the front again and start grazing on GRASS. Stay up there roaming and grazing while the narrator speaks of “The Golden Age of Mammals.” And turn into a lawnmower when called to do so.

- 3 million years ago (first time) – After BEARS are talked about, Narrator will send something like: Second, I now see an amazing migration happening in the reverse direction: heading out from North America into Asia. Come forward: HORSES and CAMELS and CHEETAH! Turtle Island is offering you to Asia and Africa, and it will be very important for you to do well in your new homelands, because, sadly, you will go extinct here! So, go forth and multiply HORSE, AND CAMEL, AND CHEETAH. *Let us all wish them well: Go forth, Horse, go forth! Go forth, Camel, go forth! Go forth, Cheetah, go forth!* [GONG]

- 3 million years ago (second time) – Listen to the Narrator calling you forward again, along with many other animals, to stand solemnly on either side of him/her and face the audience. One by one you will be asked to solemnly and in silence cross over the Isthmus of Panama, down into South America, and then continue to your seat.

- 13,000 years ago. 8 groups of animals, you among them, will be asked one by one to step forward in silence, solemnly, line up on either side of the narrator (try to be in order from left to right), and face the audience. The narrator will then speak your name as you go extinct, and you will fall to the floor and stay there as the chime rings. Stay there until you are asked to go. Then return quietly to your seat.

DOG - You enter the stage 5 different times:

- 40 million years ago – Go to the front when the narrator calls out your name, and act out the dog family (Canidae) originating right here in North America. You may wish to bark/ howl, perhaps bow to the audience as they greet you by barking and howling too.

- 10 million years ago – Act out as the narrator reads: Let us move the clock to 10 million years ago – It is time to check in with the DOG family again! Come forward Dog! Finally, our very own dog family, which you remember, originated right here, sends wolves and foxes westward across the Beringia and into Asia, where they will then spread into Europe and Africa too. Let us wish the Dog family success as it goes forth on its great adventure to other lands: *Go forth, Dog, go forth!*

- 3 million years ago – Listen to the Narrator calling you forward, along with many other animals, to stand solemnly on either side of him/her and face the audience. One by one you will be asked to solemnly and in silence cross over the Isthmus of Panama, down into South America, and then continue to your seat.

- 13,000 years ago. 8 groups of animals, you among them as DIRE WOLF, will be asked one by one to step forward in silence, solemnly, line up on either side of the narrator (try to be in order from left to right), and face the audience. The narrator will then speak your name as you go extinct, and you will fall to the floor and stay there as the chime rings. Stay there until you are asked to go. Then return quietly to your seat.

11,000 years ago – You will represent GRAY WOLF. Come forward solemnly when you are called, and stand quietly facing the audience in a line with the others on either side of the narrator. Make sure you enter by way of Asia.

CAT - You enter the stage 7 different times.

- 40 million years ago – Go to the front when the narrator calls for **Nimravid** ‘cats.’ Act out how these almost-cats immigrated here from Asia across the Bering Land Bridge, Beringia, into Alaska, then south. You may wish to make cat sounds, (some are big roars) and the audience will join you in making sounds.

- 23 million years ago – Come forward catlike, and be honored when narrator talks about **Nimravid cats going extinct** in North America. Be solemn. Perhaps stand right next to the narrator, look silently at the audience, and then let your head droop, eyes closed, as the chime strikes and honors your passing.

- 17 million years ago. **True cats, the felids**, arrive in North America from Asia. Some will evolve into truly ferocious creatures, with long sabertooth teeth.

- 15 million years ago. Pronghorn will be talked about, and then the Narrator will say something like: Now here is a mystery: The American pronghorn we humans see today can run 60 miles per hour. And yet the fastest predator in America, the wolf, can run only 40 miles per hour. So who might have run with the swiftness of a cheetah into our little pronghorn some millions of years ago? [SO YOU DASH OUT OF YOUR SEAT AT THIS POINT, AS **CHEETAH**, AND START RUNNING AFTER PRONGHORN INSIDE THE CONTINENT.]

- 3 million years ago (first time) – After Narrator speaks about BLACK BEAR, they will say: Second, I now see an amazing migration happening in the reverse direction: heading out from North America into Asia. Come forward: HORSES and CAMELS and **CHEETAH**! Turtle Island is offering you to Asia and Africa, and it will be very important for you to do well in your new homelands, because, sadly, you will go extinct here! So, go forth and multiply HORSE, AND CAMEL, AND CHEETAH

- 3 million years ago (first time) – Listen to the Narrator calling you forward again to represent various members of the **CAT FAMILY**, along with many other animals, to stand solemnly on either side of him/her and face the audience. One by one you will be asked to solemnly and in silence cross over the Isthmus of Panama, down into South America, and then continue to your seat.

- 13,000 years ago. 8 groups of animals, you among them as **SABERTOOTH AND AMERICAN LION and CHEETAH**, will be asked one by one to step forward in silence, solemnly, line up on either side of the narrator (try to be in order from left to right), and face the audience. The narrator will then speak your name as you go extinct, and you will fall to the floor and stay there as the chime rings. Stay there until you are asked to go. Then return quietly to your seat.

TREE FROGS – You enter the stage just once and act out this part. Make sure you float in from South America. Someone acting out Whiptail lizards will join you for this part.

- 35 million years ago – The narrator will say something like the following. Rise from your seat and begin to act out as the narrator proceeds: First, imagine a storm down there in South America, which is still isolated from all other continents, surrounded by ocean. Some riverside trees are washed into raging rivers, roots and all, and washed out to sea. Who is that clinging to the roots and branches? Why, it is **WHIPTAIL LIZARDS AND TREE FROGS!** Ocean currents sweep that jungle tree toward the north, rain keeps it supplied with fresh water. Hooray! That tangle of plant and amphibians is washing ashore, along the southern coast of our own continent. These are the ancestors of all the tree frogs that now make the spring nights sing in our land.
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TORNADO - You enter the stage only once.

- 32 million years ago – The narrator will begin explaining how North America, with its north-south mountain ranges creates a “Climatic trumpet.” Many tornados whirl in the center of the continent. Come forward and act this out. Make sure you twirl up and down the central plains and Midwest. The audience will be asked to supply wind sounds to accompany you. Feel free to recruit one or two others to go up there and whirl with you.
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SNAKE - You will enter the stage and act only once. Perhaps recruit a friend to help you act the part.

- Come forward and act this out as the narrator speaks something like: Okay, we’ve been stuck at the beginning of the cold Oligocene for a long time, so let’s move the clock to **30 million years ago**. Who is that slithering across Beringia from Asia into Alaska and then south????? Why, it is GARTER SNAKE! And alongside garter snake is the ancestor of what will become RATTLESNAKE! Poisonous snakes that warn mammals away by the sound of their vibrating tail will never leave the western hemisphere. Rattlesnakes are uniquely ours! (Make sure the rattlesnake has something to rattle; you can even recruit another person so that one is garter snake and the other rattler, or even a chain of people to undulate like a snake all together).
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SQUIRRELS – You enter the stage twice and act out.

- **32 million years ago.** Step into the continent and act out squirrels, especially gathering and burying nuts. The narrator will say something like: Remember that three important mammal families have originated in North America: horses, camels, and dogs. It is time for a fourth family of mammals to originate here, a family that will one day spread around the world. This is the family that, through coevolution, helps to make North America the “CONTINENT OF NUTS.” How so? It is the **SQUIRREL** family who originates in North America! And squirrels help nut trees (oaks, beeches, hickories) co-evolve by burying nuts for the winter.

- 3 million years ago – Listen to the Narrator calling you forward, along with many other animals, to stand solemnly on either side of him/her and face the audience. One by one you will be asked to solemnly and in silence cross over the Isthmus of Panama, down into South America, and then continue to your seat.

GRASS - You enter stage to act only once.

- **20 million years ago,** as the climate dries, grasses originate! Come forward and act out as the Narrator speaks something like:

We now come to a new epoch, 20 million years ago. MIOCENE epoch. It is still quite cool, but the climate gets much drier. As climate dries, GRASSES originate! Like nut trees coevolving with squirrels, grasses coevolve with the big plant-eating mammals. So please come back up here: RHINO, HORSE, CAMEL. You big beasts are coevolving with the grasses, one of the newest and most sophisticated plant families. Because of grasses, and how well they feed you, the Miocene is called by scientists The Golden Age of Mammals.

And you, GRASSES, your secret to success on the vast grasslands of America is not only being adapted to drought, but you sequester your delicate growing cells – not at the tip of twigs like shrubs and herbs do, but beneath the ground. Your leaves of grass grow only from the base, well protected from the teeth of grazing mammals. And 20 million years hence, you will find yourself extraordinarily well adapted to lawn mowers, with whom you continue to coevolve. [Note that lawnmowers will emerge then.]

BEAR – You enter the stage and act out 5 different times:

- 20 million years ago. Come forward like a bear would and act your part while the narrator says something like: The **BEAR** family, Ursidae, which originated in Asia, begins to send bears into North America for the first time. One kind will evolve here in North America into the biggest mammalian land carnivore of all time: the giant, short-face, long-legged bear: **Arctodus simus!** Oh Great Bear, let us see you stand and reach up to your full height!

- 3 million years ago (first time). The narrator will send horses and camels and cheetah to Asia, then talk about Black Bear entering from Asia. [Make SURE TO ENTER FROM ASIA.]

- 3 million years ago (second time)– Listen to the Narrator calling you forward again, along with many other animals, to stand solemnly on either side of him/her and face the audience. One by one you will be asked to solemnly and in silence cross over the Isthmus of Panama, down into South America, and then continue to your seat.

- 13,000 years ago. 8 groups of animals, you among them as GIANT SHORT FACED BEAR, will be asked one by one to step forward in silence, solemnly, line up on either side of the narrator (try to be in order from left to right), and face the audience. The narrator will then speak your name as you go extinct, and you will fall to the floor and stay there as the chime rings. Stay there until you are asked to go. Then return quietly to your seat.

- 11,000 years ago – You will represent GRIZZLY BEAR. Come forward solemnly when you are called, and stand quietly facing the audience in a line with the others on either side of the narrator. Make sure you enter by way of Asia.

GIANT GROUND SLOTHS

- 3 million years ago – Begin to leave your seat after Possum and Porcupine are talked about. [BEGIN TO LEAVE YOUR SEAT AND COME FORWARD, BEING SURE TO COME UP FROM THE SOUTH.] You are a huge plant eater, very slow. Walking pigeon toed, on the sides of their feet, feet evolved to grasp the trunks of trees, not to walk on land.

- 13,000 years ago. 8 groups of animals, you among them, will be asked one by one to step forward in silence, solemnly, line up on either side of the narrator (try to be in order from left to right), and face the audience. The narrator will then speak your name as you go extinct, and you will fall to the floor and stay there as the chime rings. Stay there until you are asked to go. Then return quietly to your seat.

ELEPHANT – You come onto stage on 4 separate occasions and act out. Make sure you use one arm to swing down like a trunk, and occasionally raise it to bellow.

- 17 million years ago, the narrator will say something like this, (as you come forward acting and sounding the part. Make sure you begin in Asia and then cross into North America at Alaska.) It is still the Golden Age of Mammals, still 17 million years ago. Oh, I have very exciting news to report, news of a new and magnificent immigrant! Who is that lumbering across Beringia from Asia, trumpeting with joyful anticipation? Why, it is the ELEPHANT family, which arose in Africa many millions of years earlier. Finally, the elephant family makes its first successful journey into North America, where it will soon evolve species completely native to this land. Oh this first elephant is the **MASTODON**.

- 5 million years ago. The narrator will just have welcomed deer into North America, and then will say something like: It is time for the ELEPHANT family to send us another gift. [SO START COMING FORWARD, ENTERING FROM ASIA. REMEMBER TO VOICE YOUR ARRIVAL TOO, BUT ALLOW THE NARRATOR TO SPEAK TOO.] Remember, the elephant family, which gave us mastodons during the Miocene, is now sending us MAMMOTHS! First come the huge mammoths that will become our Columbian mammoth. Later, when the ice ages begin, will come the woolly mammoth.

- 3 million years ago. Listen to the Narrator calling you forward, along with many other animals, to stand solemnly on either side of him/her and face the audience. One by one you will be asked to solemnly and in silence cross over the Isthmus of Panama, down into South America, and then continue to your seat.

- 13,000 years ago. 8 groups of animals, you among them, will be asked one by one to step forward in silence, solemnly, line up on either side of the narrator (try to be in order from left to right), and face the audience. The narrator will then speak your name as you go extinct, and you will fall to the floor and stay there as the chime rings. Stay there until you are asked to go. Then return quietly to your seat.

PRONGHORN and (later) **DEER**- You will enter stage 5 times.

- **15 MILLION YEARS AGO:** Here you will be called into to represent the deerlike creature that originated in North America. It has two horns on its head. It is like a little antelope, and this pronghorn lives on the plains of Yellowstone and the dry west. The narrator will talk about how you can run 60 miles per hour, so run fast! Then the narrator will talk about the CHEETAH chasing that speed into you, so run from the cheetah when cheetah enters.

- 5 million years ago – DEER enter North America for the first time, coming across the Bering Land Bridge from Asia. Make sure you enter from Asia.

- 3 million years ago – DEER are able to move into South America for the first time, after the Isthmus of Panama rises from the Sea, connecting South with North America for the first time since well before the dinosaurs went extinct.

- 13,000 years ago - 10 groups of animals, you among them a member of the deer family: Giant STAG MOOSE, will be asked one by one to step forward in silence, solemnly, line up on either side of the narrator (try to be in order from left to right), and face the audience. The narrator will then speak your name as you go extinct, and you will fall to the floor and stay there as the chime rings. Stay there until you are asked to go. Then return quietly to your seat.

- 11,000 years ago – You will represent ELK AND MOOSE. Come forward solemnly when you are called, and stand quietly facing the audience in a line with the others on either side of the narrator. Make sure you enter by way of Asia.

LIZARD - You will enter the stage twice and act out.

- Early on, right after the meteor impact **65 million years ago**, you are called forward right after salamander, and narrator speaks about how whiptail lizards all went extinct in North America. So stand facing audience, act solemn, and bow head when the chime signals your death.

- 35 million years ago, as LIZARD you will join the TREE FROG character starting in South America, washing out into the ocean on a tangle of logs and routes, and floating to the southern shore of North America, where you enter and spread throughout the continent. So act out with that frog character.

BISON – You will enter stage 3 times, all very late in the script.

- 400,000 years ago, . Narrator will say something like: You know, something has been missing from America’s great grassy plains. Something that is now the very symbol of the American plains. [RISE FROM YOUR SEAT AND BEGIN TO ACT OUT COMING TO NORTH AMERICA, MAKING SURE TO ENTER BY WAY OF ASIA.] Who are these herds of Asian grass-eaters, snorting and stampeding here from Asia across Beringia? [Pause]. Why it is **Bison!** Huge long-horned kinds of Bison.

- 13,000 years ago. 10 groups of animals, you among them as GIANT LONG-HORNED BISON, will be asked one by one to step forward in silence, solemnly, line up on either side of the narrator (try to be in order from left to right), and face the audience. The narrator will then speak your name as you go extinct, and you will fall to the floor and stay there as the chime rings. Stay there until you are asked to go. Then return quietly to your seat.

- 11,000 years ago – You will represent SHORT-HORNED BISON. Come forward solemnly when you are called, and stand quietly facing the audience in a line with the others on either side of the narrator. Make sure you enter by way of Asia.
