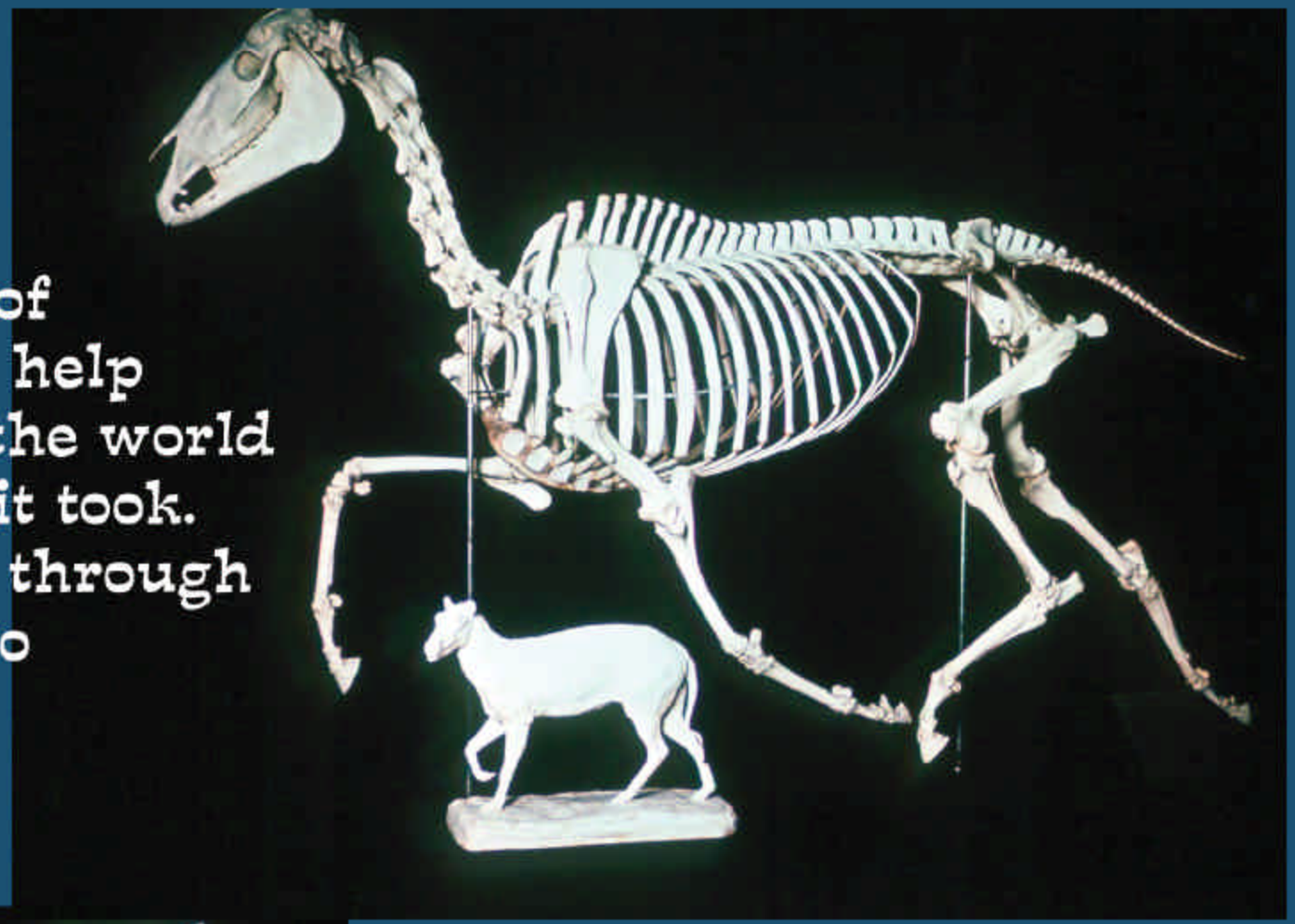Scientists collect many kinds of information about fossils that help us understand how and why the world changed and how much time it took. Understanding these changes through time provides us with a way to appreciate our own world.