

Wild Horse Fossil

Metacarpal & phalanx

(Equus ferus przewalskii)

Fossils like these were uncovered along the Heilongjiang River in China's north-east, where annual floodwaters erode the riverbanks and reveal traces of the past. This river, one of China's longest, marks part of the border with Russia and has yielded significant paleontological discoveries.

Evidence from these finds shows that the ancestors of Przewalski's horses once roamed regions of China, including Gansu and Xinjiang provinces, during the Late Pleistocene (2.6 million–12,000 years ago).

These ancient horses were not identical to the modern Przewalski's horse, which descends from a small population captured in the 20th century but represent a much older lineage that thrived in the region for millennia.

