



Fossil Fun Craft

Make your very own fossil!

Bringing Planet Earth and Expressive Arts together, this is a great cross-curricular activity that gives your pupils a chance to get creative with science.

Your class will learn all about fossils; what they are and how they are formed. Following this, your pupils will create their own replica fossil.

At a glance, you will need:

- 1 x shell or bone
- Sand box
- Dental plaster
- Plastic cup
- Plastic spoon
- Paints for decoration

Workshop	Title	Pre/Post	Suggested CfE Stage
Dinosaur Detectives	Fossil Fun craft	Pre/Post	Early/First/Second

Learning Intention

- We are learning about fossils and what they are.
- We are learning about how fossils are formed.

Task

After a discussion on fossil formation, we will use art and craft supplies to make a replica fossil.

Success Criteria

At the end of this activity you should:

- Be able to explain what a fossil is.
- Be able to demonstrate an understanding of how fossils are formed.
- Have created your own replica fossil.



CfE Capacities

Responsible citizens:

- able to develop knowledge and understanding of the world with a respect for living things and the environment
- able to develop a respect for evidence through investigating what fossils are and how they are formed

Effective contributors

- able to create and develop and apply critical thinking in new contexts

CfE Outcomes

Social studies - People, past events and societies

I am aware that different types of evidence can help me to find out about the past. SOC 0-01a

Expressive Arts - Art and design

I can create and present work using the visual elements of line, shape, form, tone, pattern and texture. EXA 1-03a

I can create and present work that shows developing skill in using the visual elements and concepts. EXA 2-03a

This activity leads to:

Science – Planet Earth (Biodiversity and interdependence)

I can explore examples of food chains and show an appreciation of how animals and plants depend on each other for food. SCN 1-02a

I can identify and classify examples of living things, past and present, to help me appreciate their diversity. I can relate physical and behavioral characteristics to their survival or extinction. SCN 2-01a

Description

A discussion on fossils is recommended before the craft activity is carried out, to put the craft into context. This discussion should inform the children about what a fossil is and how they are formed; we have provided links below to help you with this at different levels - a basic one for younger children and a more detailed one for older pupils. To assess depth of understanding on this quite complex topic, children could draw a series of pictures or diagrams to show the steps involved in fossilization.

Materials required:

1 x shell or bone
Sand box
Dental plaster
Plastic cup
Plastic spoon
Paints

Pupils should dampen the sand enough to allow an impression of their chosen shell or bone to be imprinted. Pupils should mix six heaped teaspoons of dental plaster with the same amount of water and stir to form a thick paste – it should be similar to the consistency of thick double cream so they may need to add a little more powder or water to get it just right. This should be spooned into the imprint and allowed to set (this should take about 10 – 15 minutes). Pupils should carefully remove the fossil replica from the sand and paint it – this could be done in a realistic colour or decorated with bright paints and glitter.



Web Resources

General Information:

http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/ridley/tutorials/Fossils_and_the_history_of_life2.asp
http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/ridley/video_gallery/SCM_How_do_fossils_form.asp
<http://www.discoveringfossils.co.uk/whatisafossil.htm>
<http://www.ukfossils.co.uk/guides/what%20is%20a%20fossil.htm>
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/dinosaurs/dinofossils/Fossilhow.html>

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