



Project Exploration creates transformative learning opportunities for youth underrepresented in the sciences –particularly students of color and girls – by equipping them with the skills, practices, and mindset needed for a lifelong pursuit of learning. STEM@Home makes activities around science, technology, engineering, and math accessible and fun to do at home. This STEMbook activity, resources, and more are available at www.projectexploration.org/stemathome.

In this activity, you will:

be going on an archeological dig to discover fossils! You will learn about fossils and paleontologists.



Supplies Required:

- Measuring cup
- Flour
- Salt
- Warm water
- Bowl
- Mixing spoon
- Small toy dinosaur

Video

Learn about fossils and how they form here: <https://tinyurl.com/wcz6fet>

Overview

Fossils help us learn about how the Earth, plants, and animals have changed over time. They also help us better understand the history of the Earth. Paleontologists (scientists who study fossils) can identify a time period for a certain fossil because the oldest fossils are the deepest buried. This makes sense because fossils are formed when soil covers a dead organism, and the hardest parts of the organism leave an imprint in the soil. Over time, the soil covers more organisms, piling on top of the older fossils.



Instructions

1. In a large bowl, combine 4 cups of flour, 1 cup of salt, and 1/2 cup of warm water
2. Knead ingredients into a dough--add a little water if it becomes too dry or flour if it becomes too sticky
3. Roll the dough into a large ball and divide into even pieces
4. Flatten piece piece to 1 inch thick
5. Place your toy dinosaur on the dough and press
6. Allow your fossils to dry for 24 hours or bake at 250 degrees for 2 hours until hardened
7. Paint or decorate your fossils!

Additional Resources

Think About It!

How do fossils help us learn about the past? Have you ever found a fossil in your neighborhood? Have you ever seen a fossil in a museum? What fossils do you think scientists will find in 100 years?

1. Learn more about fossils: <https://tinyurl.com/wdjrt9t>
2. Become a paleontologist and explore the time of the dinosaurs with this game: <https://tinyurl.com/tld2cpo>
3. 10 shocking facts about dinosaurs: <https://tinyurl.com/tatfhus>

Share It Out

Share on social media: take a picture of your fossils and tag your favorite museum or dinosaur movie!

Share your creation on social media using the hashtags:

#Fossils
#ProjectExploration
#StemAtHome

Share via PE's website: Students who complete STEM@home activities and share what they learned with the PE team via our website will earn points which can be traded in for cash prizes at the Explore Store. Your project number is 202. Learn more at www.projectexploration.org/explore-store

Join PE's character contest!

Design a STEM character who will lead kids through activities and be featured on our website and in our STEMbooks. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 finalists. Learn more at www.projectexploration.org/character-contest.



Call or text us for help: 312-772-6634



www.projectexploration.org