

Make-A-Fossil Workshop

Theme: Fossils

Curriculum Area: Earth Science

Activity:

- Fossils provide us with evidence of past life on Earth, which gives us insight to what used to roam the land at the time. Fossils are the remains of ancient life that have been preserved in stone due to the right conditions in nature. Using fossils, we can determine valuable insight of plant, animal, and environmental conditions from thousands of years ago. We will be creating our own models of fossils to discover just how fossils are created, and what we can learn from these remnants of the past.

Ages of Children: 9-10 years of age | 4th grade

Materials Needed:

- White Glue
- Modeling Clay
- Hard natural objects such as seashells, tree branches, leaves, etc.

Developmental Objectives/Domains: By participating in this activity, children will:

1. Understand the connection between fossils and their respective entities.
2. Learn about the scientific concepts such as the fossilization process, with an understanding of how impressions are left behind from past organisms.
3. Develop inferring, responsibility, and classifying skills.
4. Enhance their language arts skills with the use of vocabulary such as “fossils”, “casts”, and “mold”.

Procedure:

1. Have students collect hard natural objects prior to the activity date, such as leaves, seashells, branches, etc.
2. Pass out the modeling clay, and ask the students to shape it into a size that fits the dimensions of their object. Students will then place the modeling clay onto a flat surface.
3. Using their collected materials, students will press their objects into the modeling clay enough to make an impression.
4. Once an impression has been made, students will slowly pull their objects out of the modeling clay with enough care so that the impression remains accurate.
5. Using white glue, students will proceed to fill in the mold with white glue. Afterwards, students will be asked to wait while their glue dries into a solid form.

6. When the glue has dried, students will carefully peel the glue cast from the modeling clay.
7. Explain how fossils are usually preserved as casts and molds, and how this represents the process used to preserve fossils.
8. Have the students clean up their areas, and wash their hands afterwards.

References: <https://www.education.com/download-pdf/activity/15308/>