

What is a Fossil



Theme: Dinosaurs

Curriculum Area: Earth Science/ Paleontology

Activity: Fossils are preserved remains of organisms. The children will make their own fossils with salt dough. You can prepare the children for this activity by reading them a dinosaur book that you have already.

Age of Children: 4-5 years of age

Materials Needed:

- Salt
- Flower
- Water
- Large bowl
- Mixing spoon
- ½ measuring cup
- Paper plates
- Plastic dinosaurs
- Microwave

Developmental Domains/ Objectives:

1. Learn about fossils.
2. Develop social skills through working with their peers.
3. Enhance their knowledge of the world around them.

4. Increase their vocabulary “fossil” “preserved” “paleontologist” “extinct”

Procedure:

1. Have a discussion with the children and ask them questions: what is a dinosaur, do dinosaurs still exist, what is a fossil, have you ever seen a fossil before, why are fossils important to scientists?
2. Let the children know that they are going to make their own fossils. Have them help you mix the salt, dough and water, with the spoon. They can take turns pouring and mixing.
3. Each child will have 1 paper plate and write their name on it.
4. Then each child can scoop $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of the salt dough onto their plate.
5. Next, they play with the dough and use the dinosaurs to put imprints in the dough.
6. The teacher can help them microwave the dough for 1 minute and 30 seconds.
7. Let them cool while the child washes their hands.