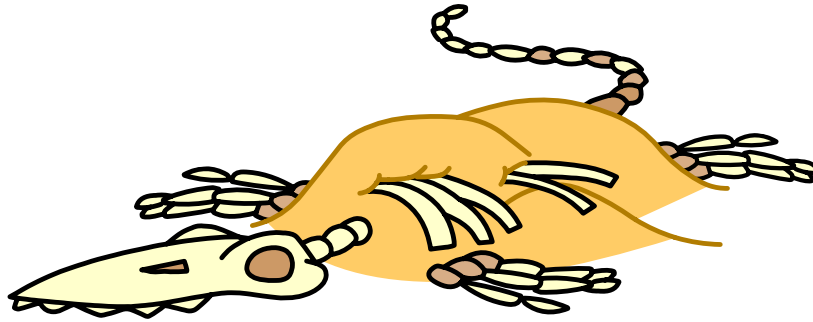


Make your own fossil



Fossils are extremely useful records of the past. Fossils found by scientists around the world can date back to the time of dinosaurs and even earlier! These fossils allow palaeontologists (scientists who study fossils) to study what life might have been like millions of years ago.

Try making your own fossil.

You will need:

- Plasticine
- Bendy card
- Scrap paper
- Sticky tape
- Plaster of Paris
- Water
- An interesting object to fossilise

Instructions:

1. Flatten a ball of plasticine until it is a circle about 2 cm thick. Make sure the top is smooth.
2. Place a sheet of scrap paper on a flat surface. With the smooth side facing up, place the plasticine on to the scrap paper.
3. Carefully press the object you want to fossilise into the plasticine until it is partially buried.
4. Carefully remove the object from the plasticine. An impression of the object should be left behind.
5. Tightly wrap the bendy card around the plasticine, making a cylinder. Secure the card with sticky tape.
6. Mix the plaster of Paris until the mixture is smooth. Leave it for around two minutes.
7. When the mixture has thickened, pour it inside the cylinder on top of the plasticine. Leave the mixture until the plaster has dried (leave it for 24hrs if you want to be sure).
8. When the plaster has fully dried, tear away the card and take out the plasticine and plaster.

Now you have your very own fossil.

Top tip: Ask your classmates to work out what your fossil shows.