

MAKE A FOSSIL

Do some research!

What makes a fossil? What types of fossils are there?



MATERIALS

- Salt dough clay:
 - 2 cups flour
 - 1 cup salt (*use fine grain*)
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ water with food coloring added (*works best to slowly add liquid till texture is right*)
- Thoroughly mix dry ingredients first before adding water (*should be the texture of Play-dough*)
- If the dough is too wet, add flour like when baking
- Wax paper
- Cookie cutters, plastic toy animals, shells, etc.

PROCEDURE

1. Roll the dough in a ball then flatten, use the cookie cutter to make a fun shape.
2. Choose a plastic animal or shells.
3. Push the animals into the dough then immediately take them out to make an impression.
4. Gently press the animal into the dough, leave to dry.
5. In a few days gently remove animals so the fossils fully dry.

Think about it: Why aren't there shark skeletons on display in aquariums?

TIPS!

- Make sure the ratio of salt, flour and water is correct!
- Put the most interesting side of the animal into the dough.
- Turn fossils over after a day or two to dry the bottom, CAREFULLY separate them from the wax paper. Or bake them in a low temperature oven to speed the drying process
- Vaseline is NOT required for this craft, it works better without it.