

MISSION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

July 2022 - Ancient Wonders

Indoor Activity: Salt Dough Fossils

Scientists who study ancient fossils are called paleontologists. In this fun activity, you will get to make your own salt dough fossils for a variety of uses! You can use the fossils for a sensory box or sponsor your own dig site right in your backyard! This activity is perfect for the future paleontologist in your life. Have them help bake and roll the fossils with you for an even longer shared activity time.

Benefits

- Paleontology practice
- Easy and fun
- Takes less than an hour to complete
- Learn more about bone structure of ancient animals

Supplies

- Flour
- Salt
- Water
- Sand
- Paint Brush
- Activity Bins or containers



What to do

- Mix 2 cups of flour, 1 cup of salt, and 1 cup of water in a bowl
- Knead the dough for 2 minutes or until it is firm
- Create your own fossil shapes or research dinosaur fossils to base yours off of
- Bake the dinosaur bones at 325 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes per inch of thickness
- Allow the bones to cool completely
- Add the dinosaur bones to an activity tray and cover with sand
- Use the paintbrush to uncover the bones just like a paleontologist!

Outdoor Activity: Fossil Finding

Did you know that you can find fossils in your own backyard? Some fossils, like those of dinosaurs or woolly mammoths, can be millions of years old, but other types of fossils are a bit more modern.

"Modern" fossils can be an imprint from a shoe, the pecking of a bird on a tree, or other changes made to the environment by an outside source.

In this activity, go around your local neighborhood or backyard and find as many modern fossils as you can. The changes made to the environment have long-lasting effects, and observing them is a great way to be aware of our own effects on the environment.

[Additional Supplies \(Optional\)](#)

- Observation tools
- Magnifying glass
- Paper and crayon
- Use the paper and crayons to make "copies" of the fossils you find in the wild.

