



Berkshiremuseum

Gallery of Dinosaurs and Paleontology

Activities to do at School or at Home

Activities: Grades 1 - 2

Make Your Own "Fossil" Imprint

Discuss the difference between a fossil remain (when part or all of a living thing becomes a fossil) and an imprint (an impression left behind by a living thing that becomes a fossil, like a foot print). To help students understand the concept of an imprint, give each student a small ball of play dough or clay. Hand out an object to each student to press into the dough (or clay) to create an impression. Shells, chicken bones, plastic fish, plastic insects, or even plastic all work well. Then set the impressions aside to dry.

Dino Dioramas

Ask students to pick one particular dinosaur to focus on. Encourage them to research what their dinosaur was like, including what it ate, where it lived, and what other plants and animals it might have encountered. Students can then create a small sculpture of their dinosaur out of clay. Shoeboxes make an excellent dinosaur habitat (ask a local shoe store to save boxes for you). Students can design a prehistoric habitat for their dinosaur inside their box using colored paper, pipe cleaners, colored clay, paint and markers.

Assessment: Make a K-W-L Goal Sheet

As a class, make a K-W-L chart. Include these three columns or sections...What I **K**now about Dinosaurs...What I **W**ant to Learn about Dinosaurs...What I **L**earned about Dinosaurs. Pre-visit, have the students brainstorm ideas for the first two columns of the chart. Post-visit, ask the students to share what they have learned and fill in the third column.