

Weekly Theme: Fantastic Fossils and Where to Find Them

Description: Dig deep into history as we explore what life was like millions of years ago. Learn how ancient creatures were preserved in mud, meet a modern (living!) dinosaur, and practice your detective skills as you piece together fossilized animals

Weekly Offerings:

Big Idea	Activity Name	Activity Description	Length of Activity	Outside ?	Caregiver Needed?
What is a Fossil	Science Journal	Campers will make a science journal to record their notes throughout the week.	15 min	n	n
What Is a Fossil	Living or Not?	Sort objects and organisms as you decide which are living and which are not. Trees? Rocks? Lightning? Master your observation and comparison skills as you explore the world around you.	20 min	Y	N
What Is a Fossil	Decay or Stay?	Why do some creatures turn into fossils, but others don't? Why do we rarely find entire dinosaurs in the ground? Solve these prehistoric mysteries as you recreate a dramatic scene from long ago.	20 min	N	N
What Is a Fossil	Make a Fossil	Make a fossil right in your own home with this simple craft. We promise it takes less than 10,000 years!	40 min	N	Y
What Is a Fossil	Fossil Formation	Grab your coloring tools! We're going to draw out what it takes to become a fossil.	20 min	N	N
Earth's History Part I	Deep Time Puppet Show	Make your own prehistoric puppets and put on a show about Earth's history, from the Cambrian explosion to the mass extinction that decimated the dinosaurs.	45 min	N	N
Earth's History Part I	Observe Living Dinosaurs	Did you know that dinosaurs live to this day? Let's watch birds, the living dinosaurs, and observe what they have in common with their prehistoric ancestors	30 min	Y	N
Earth's History Part I	Dinosaur Mask	Turn a plain mask into the dinosaur of your imagination with just a few craft supplies!	30 min	N	N

Earth's History Part I	Ice Age Snow	How did prehistoric animals survive glacial periods? Explore this question as we make our own snow!	20 min	N	N
Earth's History Part II	Fossil Timeline	What are some important events in the Earth's timeline? Practice making a timeline of your own life, and for an extra challenge make one for the Earth.	30 min	N	N
Earth's History Part II	Create a Prehistoric Creature	Fossils have even shown us organisms beyond our understanding. Now it's time to add your own creature to the diversity of life!	30 min	N	N
Earth's History Part II	Core Sampling	Not all rock is created equal, so take a page from a geologist's handbook and take some core samples. Investigate what's under the ground without even going underground.	30 min	N	N
Earth's History Part II	Glacier Hike	Go on a hike and search for signs that the glaciers left behind.	30 min	Y	Y
Finding a Fossil	Jacketing	Fossils don't get cold, but they still need jackets. Learn about real methods paleontologists use out in the field, then practice for yourself.	60 min	Y	Y
Finding a Fossil	Mapping	Everything around a fossil can add to that fossil's story. Learn how scientists draw maps to capture information about a dig site.	20 min	Y	N
Finding a Fossil	One of These Things is Not Like the Other	The key to finding a fossil is to find patterns and differences. In this activity, we'll train our eyes to find what we're looking for.	10 min	N	N
Finding a Fossil	Rock Hunt Hike	Let's go exploring! Keep your eyes peeled as we search the ground for any rocks of interest. You might even find a fossil!	30 min	Y	Y
Learning from Fossils	Fossil Photography	There are many reasons scientist take pictures of fossils, but all of them use the same methods. Learn how it's done with this activity.	20 min	N	N
Learning from Fossils	Paleoart	How do artists know what dinosaurs looked like? Find out how paleoart is created as you draw your own versions of both prehistoric and modern creatures.	30 min	N	N
Learning from Fossils	Describing a Fossil	When a paleontologist finds a new fossil species, they describe the fossil in great detail. See just how detailed you can get in this writing challenge.	15 min	N	N

Learning from Fossils	Solving Fossil Mysteries	Be a detective and look at fossil clues to solve some ancient mysteries.	15 min	N	N
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Material List:

- **From Weekly Kit**
 - Small deli container (with sand)
 - 1 Cup of sand
 - 10 Toothpicks
 - 10 Starch packing peanuts (eco foam)
 - Two 3-oz paper cups
 - ½ cup of Plaster of Paris
 - 12 Craft sticks
 - Small ball of modeling or pottery clay (not play-dough)
 - 15 Pieces of construction paper in a variety of colors
 - 5 Paper lunch bags
 - 20 Pipe cleaners
 - 4 Googly Eyes
 - 30 Pom Poms
 - Colorful Feathers
 - 5 Meter strip adding machine paper
 - 4 colors of play-dough
 - 5 plastic straws
 - Plaster Cloth
- **Needed, but not provided**
 - Tablespoon
 - Paper towel
 - Pencil with eraser
 - Container like those for food storage or bread pans
- **From Art Starter Kit**
 - Glue sticks
 - Liquid Glue
 - Scissors
 - Yarn
 - Crayons

- Color pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Masking tape
- Ruler
- **From Science Starter Kit**
 - Magnifying Glasses
 - Binoculars
 - Pipettes
 - Field Journal
 - Ruler
 - Safety Goggles

Notes:

Most of these activities can be done outside with little-to-no adjusting. Campers may need help gathering craft supplies or may need to ask permission to go outside or use certain materials. A couple of activities ask for adult assistance, the most intensive of which being the Jacketing activity, which requires using plaster and can be messy.