



# Fossil Exploration and Creation

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Science  
Grades 3–5



## Introduction

What is a fossil? What do fossils look like? In this lesson, students will learn about fossils and create some of their own! They will then write a short story about how their fossils came to be fossilized.

## Learning Objectives

[3-LS4-1](#)

- Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago.

## Materials Needed

- Paper plate
- Plaster of Paris
- Objects to use as fossils (can be brought from home or found around school)

## Procedure

1. The teacher will introduce fossils by playing this [short clip](#). After viewing the clip, the teacher will tell the students that today they are going to use the objects they brought in from home (or collected from their classroom) to make their own fossils!
2. The teacher will distribute a paper plate with a generous amount of plaster of Paris on each plate. The students will press their objects into the plate to make an impression. Be sure not to touch the plaster, as it will need time to harden and dry. Have students reflect on which parts of the fossil will dry vividly and which may become more unrecognizable.
3. While the plaster is drying, the students can start brainstorming ideas for their short writing assignment. In this writing, the students should create a tale of how that fossil came to be. Was there a flood that fossilized the toy horse? Did an asteroid bury the toy car? The tales can be realistic or imaginative, depending on teacher preference.
4. Once the plaster has hardened and the writing is complete, the students can tape their writing to their paper plate and display it on a wall or shelf for other students to admire.

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## Evaluation

Participation in the fossil molds and completion of the short writing assignment that tells the tale of their how their fossils came to be.