

## Worksheet: Make your own fossil

**Foundation Phase**

**Grade 1 - 3**

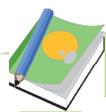
**Learning area:** Natural Sciences

**Specific Aim 1:** Acquiring knowledge of natural sciences

Activity Sheet



The word **fossil** is from the Latin word "fossilis" meaning 'to dig'. It was used to describe any animal, plant or object that was dug out of the ground. Fossils provide us with a record of plant and animal life. They also help us learn what the environment was like millions of years ago.



### Activity 1: Become a fossil finder

**Step 1:** You will need:

Small garden shovel

Work gloves

Old toothbrush

**Step 2:** Find a patch in the marked area of the school garden.

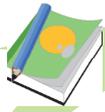
**Step 3:** Look for leaves, dead bugs, shells or twigs in the soil.

**Step 4:** When you find one, use the toothbrush to carefully remove excess dirt from the "fossil."

**Step 5:** See if it's possible to gently remove the bug or plant.

**Step 6:** Put your treasures in a small box to keep safe for the next activity.





## Activity 2: Make your own fossil

You are going to make your own fossils using natural objects.

### You will need the following:

1. The objects you collected at the digging area
2. A plastic container for mixing
3. A paper plate
4. Plaster of Paris
5. Modelling clay
6. Waxed paper
7. Small amount of vegetable oil

**Method: Your teacher will help you with this part.**



### Part 1:

1. Place a large ball of clay on a piece of waxed paper and flatten it into a thick circle.
2. Now make an impression in the clay by gently pressing in the object and then removing it.
3. Apply a small amount of vegetable oil to the impression surface to make it non-stick.
4. Prepare some plaster of Paris according to the package directions so that it has a smooth but thick consistency.



5. Spoon plaster into each impression thoroughly filling it in.
6. Leave overnight so that the plaster can dry completely.
7. Peel away the "clay" to reveal your fossil.



## Teacher notes

### Activity 1: How to Become a Fossil Finder

Find a suitable patch that learners can use as a dig site. Sand pit or a piece of open garden would be suitable.

An alternative is to provide suitable items such as shells, bones etc. for learners to cast.

Plant natural objects such as twigs, leaves, bones, shells, flower petals, or plant stems.

When learners start digging, make sure they do so carefully with a small work shovel and gloves.

When learners find an object, get them to use an old toothbrush to carefully remove excess dirt from the "fossil."

Learners are to gently remove their object and store them in a box safely for Activity 2.

<b>RUBRIC – SCIENTIFIC MODEL ASSESSMENT</b>			
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Performance Indicator Levels</b>		
	0	1	2
<b>Scientific accuracy</b>	Model incomplete/ incorrect	Some elements completed and correct	Accurate, scientifically correct and complete
<b>Size and scale</b>	Too big/ too small/ lack of scale	Correct size / scale	Correct size and scale
<b>Use of recycled material</b>	Only expensive /new material used	Effective use of recycled material	Excellent use of recycled material
<b>Clear &amp; accurate explanation/ key</b>	Absent	Incomplete / vague	Clear and accurate
<b>Workspace</b>	Messy worker	Work was neat but messy in areas	Worked neatly
<b>Cleaned up</b>	Did not clean up	Had to be reminded to clean up	Cleaned up properly
<b>Objects</b>	Did not bring	Brought but not suitable/ had to borrow	Brought everything

