

Make a dinosaur fossil

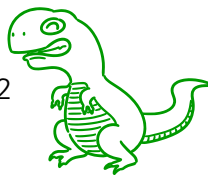
Ages 4-7

**Time:** 20-30 mins**Skills:** measuring, observing and testing**You will need:**

- a bowl
- 2 cups of flour (brown flour is best but you could use white flour with brown food colouring or coffee grounds)
- 1 cup of salt
- ½ cup of water
- small plastic dinosaurs, and other objects like pasta, toothpicks, sticks or stones, to press into the dough

**Method:**

1. Mix the flour, salt and water together in the bowl, to make a dough.
2. Take a small piece of dough and roll it into a ball.
3. Press the ball flat with the palm of your hand.
4. Gently press a plastic dinosaur or other object, into the dough to leave an imprint.
5. Leave your fossils for a few days to dry or bake them in the oven at 150°C / fan 130°C / gas 2 for about 3 hours.



Adult supervision is recommended for young learners.

What's the science in salt dough?

When we mix two or more things together, we call it a mixture.

When flour, salt and water are mixed together and dried out, the salt forms a strong framework around the flour and holds all the flour together.

What's the science in real fossils?

Fossils are the remains of animals and plants in rocks.

When the animal or plant died, it was covered in sand and mud.

Some parts of the dead animal or plant may have rotted away but other parts, like the skeleton of a dinosaur, stayed behind and over millions of years, became part of the rock.

Let's Investigate!

Try pressing different objects into the dough. Can you make dinosaur footprints? Can you make a whole skeleton? Can you make teeth?

Put your fossils to dry in different places around your house. Where do they dry the quickest? Why?

Get talking!

Show your family the fossils you've made. Ask them if they know how real fossils are formed and talk about where you might go to find real fossils.

Get talking!

Go online to find out about any fossils kept in museums near you. Make your own dinosaur museum using the fossils you've made!

