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Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities @ Rhode Island College
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence RI 02908
401 456-8072 Ph. 401 456-8773 TDD 401 456-8150 FAX
www.sherlockcenter.org
Fossils

What are they?
Fossils

What are they?
Dinosaurs lived on earth 225 million years ago.
How do scientists know this is true?
Scientists called paleontologists found the parts of dinosaurs.
These remains are called fossils.
Fossils are the sign that dinosaurs did live.
Fossilization takes a very long time. Sometimes it takes 1000 thousands of years.
Fossils are put into a group and displayed in a museum.
Fossils can be bones, teeth, shells, wood, or material from an animal.
A museum keeps fossils safe and allow the public to look at them.
Life Science
Fossils

LS3.1.2b Identify a fossil as remains of something that was once alive.

A Science Investigation includes four components:
- Observing/questioning
- Planning
- Conducting
- Analyzing

Observing/questioning
- Using the sense of touch and sight students will examine fossils.
- Picture books will be used to show the many variety of fossils.
- Questions will be asked about where a fossil came from and how it was formed.
- Make predictions on how the fossil was created.
- Ask why it is important to study fossils.
- What can fossils tell us?

Planning
- Prepare a clear space to complete the experiment.
- Discuss the types of things needed to create a man-made fossil.
- Tell students they will have one week to bring in various bones. (fish, chicken, pork…)
- Talk about bones and what happens to them.
- Advise each student to bring in a shoebox from home. Ask them why this might be necessary.
- Identify other items that will be necessary to complete the experiment
Conducting

- Watch a brief video about the process of fossilization.
- Have a step by step procedure for each student to use.
- Steps:
  1. Fill a shoe box with damp sand, about 3’ deep.
  2. Push the bones into the packed sand and carefully remove, leaving an impression.
  3. Students will work in pairs to mix plaster.
     - 3 cups of dry plaster and add 1 cup water
     - stir until mixed completely
  4. Pour into shoebox immediately, starting at one end slowly going to the other end.
  5. Place an open paper clip in the middle to use as a hanger.
  6. Allow fossil to set for 24 hours. Ok to check every hour to visually see how the plaster is changing.
  7. When completely dry tear box sides and brush away excess sand with a paintbrush.

Analyzing

- Check on predictions.
- Make a list of similarities and differences of the process.
- Discuss the steps and how easy/hard it was to complete.
- Display the fossils to the class and make comments on the differences.
- Use a data chart to collect all information.

Adaptations for students with significant challenges

- This process can be used with all students.
- Strip visual directions will be used to help students follow the directions.
- Several man-made fossils will be available for students to touch and smell.
• The student will be allowed to feel each step of the process. Hand-over-hand will be used if necessary.
• See attached strip directions.
Step 1: Watch a video.

Step 2: Fill a shoe box with damp sand.

Step 3: Push bones into the sand.

Step 4: Remove bones carefully.

Step 5: Mix 3 cups of plaster with 1 cup of water.

Step 6: Pour into the shoe box quickly.

Step 7: Place an open paper clip in the middle.

Step 8: Allow to dry for 24 hours.

Step 9: Remove and brush off sand.
Fossils can be looked at in a museum.
A fossil can be a _____, _____, or _____.

- nose
- bones
- shells
- hat
- teeth