



Exploring Paleontology

Paleontology Facts

Did you know.....

Paleontology is the study of ancient plants and animals.

Paleontologists study the remains of ancient plants and animals found in rocks; these remains are called fossils.

Paleontologists use special tools to remove fossils from bigger rocks.

Paleontologist learn how plants and animals evolved over time through fossils.

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/paleontology/353591>

Watch & Sing

Dig In To Paleontology

By: SciShow Kids

In this video, you can learn more about paleontology!

<https://youtu.be/1FjyKmpmQzc>

Dinosaur Stomp

By: Mother Goose Club Playhouse

In this video, you can sing about dinosaurs!

<https://youtu.be/AM3VomijOw8>

Activity

Digging for Dinosaurs

Materials: Cornstarch, water, dinosaur toys (can substitute with cleaned bones from whatever meat you have in the house), play tools and paintbrush (can substitute with dull kitchen utensils such as a small metal spoon)

What you will do: Start by adding 2 cups of cornstarch and 1 cup of water to the container you're using, and mix. Depending on the size of the container, you may want to add more cornstarch and water, but make sure you always add twice as much cornstarch as water. If the mixture is too soup-y, just add a little bit more cornstarch, or if it's too thick add a little more water. Once you have achieved the "goop" consistency, add 1-2 dinosaur toys or cleaned meat bones and push them down in the goop so they are completely covered. Then sit the container out in the sun to harden for 1-2 days. When it's ready it will be hard and crack on the surface. Turn the container upside down to release the hardened block. Then invite your child to use his/her tools to find the dinosaur fossils (dinosaur toys or bones).

Discuss: Explain to your child that some people excavate fossils for a living, they are called paleontologists. Excavate means to dig up and fossils are remains of animals, or plants from a very long time ago.