

Design A Dino Activity



Dinosaurs come in all different shapes and sizes! Each dinosaur has unique structures that helped it survive. Paleontologists learn about dinosaurs by studying fossils. In this activity students will design their own dinosaur and then use household objects and salt dough to create an impression fossil.

Grade Level	3rd-5th Grade
Activity Length	2 Class Periods of active time. About 2 Hrs. 2 Hrs baking time for Salt Dough
Materials	Salt Dough Ingredients: Salt, Flour, Water Random Household Objects

Disciplinary Core Ideas

(LS1) Molecules to Organisms

(LS2) Ecosystems

(LS4) Biological Evolution

SEEd Standards:

Standard 3.2.4 Construct an explanation showing how variations in traits and behaviors can affect the ability of an individual to survive and reproduce. Examples of traits could include large thorns protecting a plant from being eaten or strong smelling flowers to attracting certain pollinators. Examples of behaviors could include animals living in groups for protection or migrating to find more food.

Standard 4.1.1 Construct an explanation from evidence that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction. Emphasize how structures support an organism's survival in its environment and how internal and external structures of plants and animals vary within the same and across multiple Utah environments. Examples of structures could include thorns on a stem to prevent predation or gills on a fish to allow it to breathe underwater.

Standard 4.1.3 Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the stability and change in organisms and environments from long ago. Emphasize using the structures of fossils to make inferences about ancient organisms. Examples of fossils and environments could include comparing a trilobite with a horseshoe crab in an ocean environment or using a fossil footprint to determine the size of a dinosaur.



Design A Dino Activity



Student Name: _____

Dinosaurs, like modern animals, come in all shapes and sizes! Each dinosaur has unique structures that function to help it survive. Fill out the questions below to design your own dinosaur and then create an impression fossil using the salt dough instructions.

Dinosaur Name:

What does your dinosaur eat?

What type of mouth structures does your dinosaur have to help it eat that food? (ex. Sharp teeth for meat)

What structures does your dinosaur have to protect itself? (ex. Claws or a back plate)

What is a special structure that your dinosaur has that no other dinosaurs have? What is the function of this structure?

While making your dinosaur remember to be creative, try something new,
and **Stay Curious!**



Design A Dino

Activity - Salt Dough

Fossil Impression



Create your Salt Dough Dinosaur Fossil Impression

1. Mix together flour and salt. Slowly stir in cold water until mixture feels like playdough and is not sticky.
2. Knead dough for 10 minutes and then let sit for 20 minutes.
3. Optional Step: Add in food coloring to make your dough a special color!
4. Preheat Oven to 250 degrees fahrenheit
5. Roll out dough into a small rectangle. Place dough on a baking sheet.
6. Find objects around your house or classroom to press into the dough to make differnt parts of your dinosaur.
7. Once all objects are pressed into the dough to make a dinosaur shape remove objects.
8. Transfer dough to oven and bake for 2hrs. Allow to cool completely.
9. Optional Step: Paint your dinosaur! Use paint to decorate your dinosaur impression fossil.
10. Share with your class in person, through a video, or using a picture!

What You Will Need:

2 Cups Flour

1 Cup Salt

1 Cup Cold Water

Household Objects to make impressions

Optional:
Food Coloring
Paint

