

Ask Me About Dinosaurs!

Today, an instructor from the Discovery Museum in Acton visited my classroom and led a program about dinosaurs.

We all pretended to be paleontologists and used the skills of a scientist to make observations, ask questions, and share our ideas. I excavated some really amazing fossils. Ask me what kinds of tools I used. You can also ask me to describe my favorite fossil.

Have you ever seen a dinosaur egg fossil? I have! Let me tell you about how it looked and felt. Ask me to tell you about the shape of a dinosaur's nest and the materials we used to make a model nest.

Together we can explore more ways that natural materials can leave an imprint.

Nature Impressions

Start by collecting a variety of natural materials outside, such as different leaves, pine needles, small sticks, shells, seeds and pods, rough or smooth stones, ferns, and feathers. Choose objects with the most interesting textures you can find! Then, choose a way to make your imprint:

Option 1

Use a sheet of paper and an unwrapped crayon to create rubbings of the flat materials you collected (stones, leaves, pine needles). Place objects underneath the sheet of paper and rub the crayon over the top to reveal prints and patterns.

Explore the idea that pressing down on something from nature leaves an imprint, and those fossils are formed in nature when layers of earth press down on a natural remnant (just like you are doing with your piece of paper!). Ask your child if they remember learning about any fossils that left an imprint.

Option 2

Create a simple salt dough (2:1:1 flour to salt to water ratio). Using the dough as your "soil," press your materials into the dough and observe the resulting shapes and patterns. Use your senses to explore, running your fingers over the shapes that are printed in the dough. Try pressing your own hand into the dough to create a "fossil" of you, just like the dinosaur track you saw!

