AUSSIE BIBLE MATES · BIBLE MATES EXPLORERS · AUSTRALIAN EDITION

A CHRISTIAN DINOSAURS AND FOSSILS UNIT STUDY

Dino DETECTIVES

"Speak to the earth, and it will teach you." Job 12:8

Parent Guide



Whole family · ages 5–13 | 8 lessons | 3 levels | Read along with Drew



CASE 1 · WHAT IS A FOSSIL?

Brush and Find

📖 Story time

"Dino Detectives wanted!" Big Mate announced. A string grid lay over the sandpit, four squares by four.

"Dig slowly," said Ruby, opening her notebook. "A good detective never breaks the evidence."

Tilly swept her soft brush back and forth. Something pale and knobbly peeked out of the sand. "A bone!" she whispered.

Little Mate's spoon clinked on something hard. He held up a spiral shell. "Was this ever alive?"

"Yes," said Ruby. "It was part of a sea animal. That pebble never was."

Pip brushed so carefully that his bill nearly touched the sand. Out came another bone, and then a flat stone with a leaf pressed into it.

Big Mate wrapped the shell in a foil jacket. "Before we lift anything, we write down which square it was in."

Little Mate grinned. "God hid treasures in his world," he said, "and we get to search them out!"

🤔 BIG QUESTION

What is a fossil, and how did it get into the rock?

QR

🎧 **Listen with Drew**
Scan to hear this story read aloud.

"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter." **Proverbs 25:2**

Real fossils!

Body fossils, trace fossils, and how palaeontologists dig.

Body fossils


bone


tooth


shell


leaf

Trace fossils


footprint


egg


burrow


coprolite

A FOSSIL IS
the remains or traces of a living thing, kept in rock

WHO DIGS?
A palaeontologist

NEAR BONE
soft brushes and small tools

BEFORE LIFTING
record exactly where it lies

THINGS YOU MIGHT SEE


A brush and a hand lens


A body fossil: a bone


A trace fossil: a footprint

2 kinds of fossils — body fossils (parts of a living thing) and trace fossils (signs it left behind).

Shells and leaves — are fossils too. Fossils are not only dinosaurs.

Coprolite — a fossil dropping. It's a trace fossil!

Where? — where bones lie, and how close together, helps show if they came from one animal.

Try it! Observe or infer?

1. Pick one find from your dig.
2. Say one thing you can see or measure: that's an observation.
3. Say what you think it means: that's an inference.
4. Write each one in its own column on the family chart.

Pictures are paintings and simplified drawings, not to scale. Sizes are scientists' estimates from the bones found so far.



Was It Ever Alive?

Little Mates · ages 5–7

Name: _____ Date: _____

WORDS TO KNOW fossil · bone · dig

1 **Trace the word.**

fossil

2 **Circle the things that were once alive.**


shell


pebble

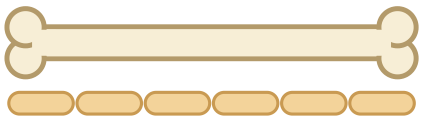

leaf print


plastic dinosaur


bone


bottle cap

3 **How many pop sticks long is the bone?**



_____ pop sticks

4 **Which bone is longer? Circle it.**





5 **Is a footprint a fossil?** ☐ yes ☐ no

6 **Draw my best find from the dig.**



7 **Count the footprints by 2s.**



2, 4, _____ , _____ footprints

How did I go?