Objective: Children experience some of the work of a paleontologist and receive an introduction to the concept of fossils by digging up dinosaur fossils.

Age Range: 2 to 6 years

### CONTENT TOPICS
- Earth Science
- Organisms

### PROCESS SKILLS
- Manipulating Materials & Equipment Effectively
- Finding patterns & Relationships
- Raising Questions

1 Science Process Skills  2 Head Start Child Outcomes  3 Oregon Early Childhood Foundations

### TIME REQUIRED

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<th>Advance Preparation</th>
<th>Set Up</th>
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<td>About 30min</td>
<td>About 10min</td>
<td>About 30min</td>
<td>About 10min</td>
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### MATERIALS

**Required:** Birdseed, large paint brushes, scoops & sifters, fossil specimens, large flat container.

### ADVANCE PREPARATION

- Pour birdseed into tub and bury the fossils specimens.
- Set out the paintbrushes, scoops & sifters on the table.

### EXPLANATION

The following is a sample of some scientific explanations behind this subject. For more information see the books in the Discovery Box.

- **Fossils** are dinosaur bones, eggs and footprints have been preserved in rock over millions of years.
- A person who looks for fossils in rocks and in the ground is called a **paleontologist**. They study fossils to learn more about dinosaurs.
- **Paleontologist** dig carefully to find the fossils buried in the dirt and stone. A dinosaur dig is a site they have set up to search for fossils.

### ACTIVITY PROCEDURE

1. Encourage the children to use the tools to unearth the objects in the tubs.
2. Use the discussion questions to further learning.

### DISCUSSION

To discuss the topic, explore the children’s knowledge on the subject through open-ended questions.

Ask:
- Do you know what a fossil is?
- Why do you think paleontologists use soft brushes to uncover fossils?
- What did you find when you went digging in the tubs? Describe it.
- Why do you think paleontologists learn about dinosaurs from fossils?