



OMSI EARLY LEARNER ACTIVITY: DINOSAUR DIG

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
Organisms³

PROCESS SKILLS

Manipulating Materials & Equipment Effectively¹
Finding patterns & Relationships¹
Raising Questions¹

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

TIME REQUIRED

Advance Preparation
About 30min

Set Up
About 10min

Activity
About 30min

Clean Up
About 10min

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?

