

Grade 4 : Fossils

Concepts: Fossils are the remains of ancient organisms. Fossils can be shells, teeth, bones, impressions of plants, seeds, spores of fungi, tracks and trails of animals, even dung. The most common are the shells of invertebrates. To be considered a fossil, the remains must be at least 10,000 years old.

5 min. **Introduction**

80 min. Divide class into three groups for activities:

- **Fossil Making** Students will make a *mold* in plasticine using a fossil and then a plaster *cast* from that mold to simulate one way fossils are formed.
- **Human Timeline** The concept of geologic time is a difficult one to grasp. In this activity, students will gain an understanding of how short a time man has been on the Earth and that most of the more interesting developments have happened in just the past 600 million years of the Earth's 4.6 billion year history.
- **Fossil Hunt** Students will search by the stream for fossils that have been exposed by the water. Glacial erratics, rock fragments carried by a glacier away from the outcrop from which they were derived, may also be found.

5 min. **Conclusion**

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