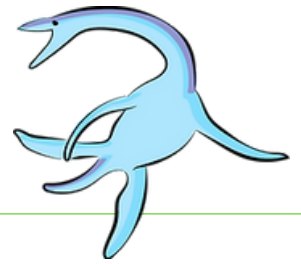




CLEAN FOSSILS



Grades 4th-8th

PALEONTOLOGY DAY

Students get to scrub and clean ancient fossils.

G'DAY!

10 min

G'day is Australian for hello!

Greet your students. Be friendly. Use their name, ask a question, give a high five, or thumbs-up! Take roll. Mark down which students took a snack and tally how many snacks were given out.

STORY & SNACK

20 min

Read the story:

Today's story is called Creatures of Old. Read to your students in small groups outside as they sit in a circle.

SPORTS / GAMES

30 min

Ancient Sea Creature Bone Hide and Seek

Students will play as paleontologists as they search for ancient sea creature bones hidden around their play area.

Materials:

- Paper
- Tape

Instructions- The STEM Coaches will use paper and tape to make ancient sea creature bones by crumbling up the paper and forming the paper into bone shapes. The STEM Coaches will hide the ancient sea creature bones around the play area. Tell the students that today they will be paleontologists as they play hide and seek to find the bones hidden in the school yard.

*If the STEM Coaches are feeling creative, they may create a small and simplified ancient sea creature skeleton, such as an Ichthyosaur, with their bones, and then hide those bones for the students to find and assemble the ancient sea creature skeleton.



STEM TIME

50 min

Materials:

- STEMtaught fossil box
- STEMtaught water tub
- STEMtaught brushes
- Hose

Fossil Cleaning Instructions

Students get to watch a movie about where the fossils were collected and then they get to try their hand at being real paleontologists and cleaning the fossils!

Set up the tubs of water outside with about 4 tooth brushes/tub.
Have students work in the grass so that if fossils drop they do not break.

Ask:

Ask students what they notice about these rocks. Do they see anything interesting about them? (listen to students responses and try and get them to share all they can before you point out the bone marrow texture in each of the samples)

What type of bones do you think these are? See if students can notice that some are large and some are small, some look similar to vertebrate and that some look similar to rib bones.

What type of animal do you think these bones came from?

Explain:

These are very old samples about 20 million years old! We need to be very careful when we wash them and make sure we don't dunk them in the water but rather hold them in our hand and brush water onto them to get all of the dirt away.

When you are washing the fossils keep your eye out for shark teeth that might be in the dirty sediment that is covering the bone. Look closely at everything you do.

Instructions:

Say - Today we got to hold and clean some very old bones. When a scientist is working it is important that they carefully draw their samples. This helps them notice things and think of questions. Take time to carefully draw the special bone that you cleaned. What questions do you have? Write them down.

Clean up/Free play/Dismissal

Allow your students some free time. Some students may wish to finish working on their STEM project. Others may want to journal or scrapbook about their day. Other students may want to go outside to play. Clean up, pack up.

NATURE JOURNALING

15 min

CLEAN UP/ FREE PLAY

25 min

