Fossil Discovery Place Activity

1. Materials
   - Rectangular plastic box (at least 24" x 36" and 4" deep)
   - Fossils that have been collected or made in the classroom (about 36)
   - Garden trowel
   - String
   - Tape
   - Graph paper
   - Sand

2. Discussion
   - Where are fossils found?
   - Why would they be found at certain places
   - How can we identify fossils?

3. Procedure
   a. Put sand in the plastic box.
   b. Hide the fossils deep and randomly in sand.
   c. Tell the students that a fossil was found in this areas and that there must be more here to find.
   d. Set up the box in a grid with string going over the edges with the string about 4 inches apart.
   e. Have the students draw the box on their graph paper 6" x 9" (each inch equals 4 inches of the box).
   f. Have the students draw the grid lines on their paper according to the scale of the strings on the plastic box.
   g. Number the grids
   h. Have each student come up and do one dig anywhere in the box.
   i. If a fossil is found, tell the grid it as found in and what type of fossil. Draw the fossil in the grid (or write the name).
   j. Have each student do this until everyone has had a chance.

4. Discussion
   a. What was this activity about?
   b. Should areas be preserved where fossils are found?
   c. How long should they be preserved?
   d. What do we do with fossils if we find them?