

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?