



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## Create Your Own Fossil

Fossils are extremely useful records of the past. They allow scientists to study what life might have been like millions of years ago. Fossils can leave delicate patterns and a surprising amount of detail.

Find an interesting object to set in stone, allowing its impression live on in the form of a fossil.

### What you need

- Plasticine
- 2 plastic cups
- An object you would like to use as a fossilised impression (eg, a coin or shell)
- Plaster of Paris
- Water.

### What to do

1. Flatten a ball of plasticine until it is approximately 2 cm thick. Make sure the top is smooth.
2. Put the plasticine inside a paper cup with the smooth side facing up. Carefully press the object you want to fossilise into the plasticine until it is partially buried.
3. Carefully remove the object from the plasticine. An impression of the object should be left behind.
4. Pour half a cup of plaster of Paris into the other cup. Add a quarter of a cup of water into the plaster and stir until the mixture is smooth. Let it stand for 2 minutes to thicken.
5. When the mixture has thickened, pour it on top of the plasticine in the other cup, then leave it until the plaster has dried.
6. When the plaster has fully dried, cut away the sides of the cup and take out the plasticine and plaster. Carefully peel the plasticine off the plaster. Keep it in a warm, dry place and enjoy your very own fossil!

