



Dinosaur Detectives

Key Stage 2

Length of Session:

90 minutes: 45 min object handling session followed by 45 min self-guided trail in the Museum.

Maximum group size:

32 children plus 4 members of staff.

Session outline

- Use role-play to understand fossilisation and discover the definition of a dinosaur.
- Children will handle a wide range of fossils from bones to footprints and even fossilised poo!
- They learn how scientists can use fossils to interpret the past lives of dinosaurs and discover their evolutionary relationship with today's living 'dinosaurs'.
- Roam amongst our life-sized dinosaur skeletons with a self-guided trail.



National Curriculum Areas:

Science: Working Scientifically; Rocks; Living things and their habitats; Evolution and inheritance.



Museum of
**Natural
History**

University of Oxford



Suggestions for pre-visit activities

- Investigate what children know about fossils and whether anyone has ever found one.
- Discuss how the children think that fossils get into rocks and what they tell us about the past.
- Read 'Stone Girl Bone Girl' by Laurence Anholt with your class.
- Talk about each other's favourite dinosaurs and see how many you list.
- Measure out and draw a life sized T-rex outline on the playground in chalk. Can you fit the whole class inside it?!

Suggestions for post-visit activities

- Cut out different sized dinosaur footprints. Can children work out the size of each dinosaur that made them? Use the maths skills they learnt at the Museum.
- Look at fossils that tell us about the other creatures that lived at the time of the dinosaurs, or the types of organisms that lived before and after them.
- Make a geological wall display showing different strata of rocks, the fossils that can be found in the periods they represent and how life has changed and evolved.
- Explore what the fossil record can tell us about human evolution.
- Visit our Learning Zone pages to investigate the fossil history of life at...<http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/fossils/index.htm>

Learning Outcomes

- Be able to describe in simple terms how fossils are formed and the type of rock that they are found within.
- Understand some of the simple characteristics by which dinosaurs and other reptiles are classified.
- Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.



Museum of
**Natural
History**
University of Oxford

For further details and to book your visit, contact:
education@oum.ox.ac.uk