

# Ideas and Evidence

## Key Stage 3



How do scientists use evidence to explore the unknown? Students handle a variety of types of fossil evidence and use a range of skills to find out how scientists build up an accurate idea of the prehistoric world and how this changes as new evidence is discovered.



### Length of Session:

A series of 40 min workshops. These can be linked to make a programme of varying lengths.

### Maximum group size:

Each workshop has a maximum capacity of 15 students accompanied by a member of staff. Up to 5 workshops can be taught simultaneously.

## Session outline

**Part 1:** Students have an introductory talk outlining the theme for the visit and expectations.

**Part 2:** Students take part in a series of workshops. Some workshops are led by Museum staff. Some are led by the students' own teachers.

### Example Workshop: Bag of Bones

Students are given a bag of paper bones and asked to imagine that this was a collection of unearthed fossils. They use the bones to assemble a skeleton. This is an opportunity to talk about the nature of fossils evidence and ideas based on this kind of evidence. Students compare skeletons to skeletons of modern and prehistoric animals in the collection and evaluate parts of their solution as a creative guess or a scientific idea, based on evidence.



**Part 3:** Plenary and Evaluation





### Learning outcomes

- Students recognise that both evidence and creative thinking contribute to our understanding of the prehistoric world.
- Students appreciate the way in which fossil evidence is gathered.
- Students appreciate the way scientific ideas about the prehistoric world change in the light of new fossil evidence.
- Students take a more active interest in the natural world through close access to museum specimens.

### Curriculum themes

- Students should be taught to recognise that both evidence and creative thinking contribute to the development of scientific ideas.
- Students should be taught to appreciate the way in which evidence is gathered.
- Students should be taught to understand the way scientific ideas change in the light of new evidence.

## Suggested pre- and post-visit work



### Explore these links:

[bit.ly/berkeleyfossiltour](http://bit.ly/berkeleyfossiltour)

[bit.ly/berkeleyScotchmoorDino](http://bit.ly/berkeleyScotchmoorDino)

## For more information...

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