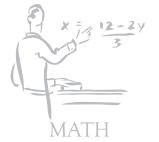


Dinosaur Crafts

Combine art and science with numerous craft projects to teach Paleontology. Students will create fossil impressions and molds of plants and dinosaurs.

3-4

GRADE LEVEL



Objectives

- Students will gain better understanding of science through hands-on learning with arts and crafts.
- Students will improve knowledge retention through experiential learning.

Materials

Plant Fossil Impression on Tile

- Unglazed tiles (off-white, tan or grey)
- Acrylic paints (rusty clay or forest green in color)
- Ferns
- Tissue
- Wide brushes

Procedure

Plant Fossil Impression on Tile

1. Begin by showing a sample or an illustration of a plant fossil.
2. Give each student a tile, acrylic paints and a piece of fern to be cut to fit the tile size.
3. Next, have students paint their fern with a wide brush and dab off excess paint on a paper towel.
4. Students then place the fern, paint side down, on the tile and cover it with a tissue. Next, they press down on the tissue with their fingers to create the impression of the fern. If the student is happy with the impression, allow it to dry overnight; if the student is dissatisfied, simply wipe the tile clean with a paper towel and begin again.
5. Finally, to keep the imprint from rubbing off, spray a flat fixative on and allow to dry.

Continued on the back...

“Dinosaur Crafts” project continued...

Materials

Dinosaur Molds and Casts

- Plastic skeletal dinosaurs (sold in science stores and museums)
- 9" foil cake pan
- Sand (enough to fill each students cake pan 1/2 way)
- Plant mister and water
- Cooking spray
- Plaster

Procedure

Dinosaur Molds and Casts

1. Supply each student with a 9" foil cake pan and a plastic skeletal dinosaur.
2. Fill each pan halfway with sand, mist the top layer with water. If the sand is very fine coat the dinosaurs with cooking spray.
3. Students then carefully place the dinosaur in the sand and gently press it from top to bottom, deep enough to make an impression in the sand. Remove dinosaur.
4. Next, mix enough plaster with water to entirely cover the top layer of sand in each pan (plaster consistency should resemble tapioca pudding).
5. As the plaster begins to dry, place a bent paper clip in the back (be sure it can not be seen from the front!) so the cast can be hung from the wall when done. Allow to dry overnight.
6. Finally, students will turn the tins over and remove the plaster from the sand. Some sand will stick to the plaster which creates an authentic looking fossil cast.



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