



It's Not Easy to

Lesson Instructions

**This lesson can be done as one longer lesson or broken up into two or three days.

Pre-Lesson set up:

1. Print all ID charts and instructions for the students
2. Set up fossil samples around the room with their sample ID numbers.

Lesson:

1. Begin by discussing fossils with students. Ask the students what is a fossil? Ask them where are fossils found? If they need help guide their answers (do we find dinosaur bones in the sky?). Discuss how fossils form and the different types of fossils.
2. As you discuss you can show the students

Assessment:

To assess their knowledge of the fossil types you can show students pictures or samples of fossils and have them identify the type.

Trace Fossil:

Materials:

- Air-Dry clay
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Cast Fossil:

Materials:

- fossil molds
- air-dry clay
- wax paper

Procedure:

1. Give each student a fist sized piece of clay. Let the students pick a few (depending on size) fossil molds.
2. Have the students knead the clay for a minute or two.
3. Have them break up the dough into smaller pieces depending on how many and the size of the molds they chose.
4. They should then press the clay into the mold until the mold is completely filled, with some of the clay overlapping the edges.
5. Then they can carefully peel the clay out of the mold and place the cast onto their wax paper.
6. They can repeat the process if they have enough clay left over to make more.
7. Let the clay dry for at least 24 hours (thicker casts will take longer to dry).
8. Once they are dry, they can paint, color, or decorate their fossil cast.

Fossil Type ID Chart

Fossil Sample Chart

Amber	
Mold	
Cast	
Carbonization	
Trace Fossil	