

Additional Work if needed.

Week 3 – April 20 -24, 2020

This week we are giving you science.

You will be learning about Fossils.

Enjoy

Trabajo adicional si es necesario.

Semana 3 - 20-24 de abril de 2020

Esta semana te estamos dando ciencia. Aprenderás sobre los fósiles.

Disfrutar

Name _____ Date _____

Fossils

In this activity, you will learn about the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, California. Then, you will use a graphic organizer to describe three causes that resulted in the trapped animal bones becoming fossils.

The La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, California are famous worldwide for the wide variety of fossils that scientists have found there. Over the last 50,000 years, many animals, as well as plants, became trapped in the sticky black substance, which is actually asphalt, in the pits.

More than one million fossilized bones have been removed from the pits. The largest amount of bones belong to dire wolves and saber-toothed cats, now extinct species, and coyotes. Scientists have also found fossil bones of other mammals, insects, and birds. Scientists think that some animals accidentally stepped or flew into the asphalt, while others were likely chased into the pits by predators. Some animals that came to feed on trapped animals also became trapped themselves. For all of the trapped animals, they could not free themselves from the asphalt. As a result, the animals died and sank into the pits, where their bones eventually became fossils.

Name _____ Date _____

Cause

Cause

Cause

Effect

As a result, the animals died and sank into the pits, where their bones eventually became fossils.

Trace Fossil

Imprint!

Materials:

-fossil imprint dough:

2 cups flour

½ cup salt

¾ cup water

-spoon & bowl

-leaf, pebble, flower, twig, etc. (1 per student)

Experiment: Students will create their own trace fossil using a special fossil dough recipe and an item they choose from outside.

Procedure:

Take your students on an adventure outside to choose an item to create their very own trace fossil. While you are outside, discuss with your students how a trace fossil is created. Ask each student to find one item they can use to make their own trace fossil. When you come inside mix up the fossil imprint dough and disperse into small balls for the students to make their imprints.

The students will flatten out the ball of dough, not too flat, and gently press their item into the it. This will make an imprint of the object. Let the imprints dry for a few days. When they are completely dry, they will resemble a trace fossil.

Things to Know:

- You can make the balls of dough ahead of time, just not too early. You do not want them to begin to harden.
- Depending on the size of your class, you may want to double or triple the dough recipe.



Imprint! - *Trace Fossils*

Name: _____

Date: _____

Use the Scientific Method to conduct this experiment.

Purpose (Question): What will happen when we take an object from outside and press it into soft dough? What will happen when the dough hardens?

Research (Information): Write two facts about trace fossils.

1. _____
2. _____

Hypothesis (Scientific Guess):

1. _____

Experiment Procedures:

1. Materials:
fossil imprint dough (2 cups flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water), bowl, spoon, leaf, pebble, flower, twig, etc. (1 per student)
2. Discuss and write two facts about trace fossils.
3. **What will happen when we take an object from outside and press it into soft dough? What will happen when the dough hardens?** Make your hypothesis.
4. Go outside with your class and talk about how trace fossils are formed. While you discuss this topic, each student must choose one object, such as a small pebble, leaf, flower, or twig to bring inside. Make sure it is small.
5. Once you are inside, make the fossil imprint dough. Roll the dough into individual small balls. (Your teacher may have already done this.)
6. Each student should get a small ball of dough. Flatten it out and press your object into the dough to make a print of it.
7. Take your object out of the dough. With the tip of your pencil, carve your initials somewhere in the dough. Make sure to do it small.
8. Set your dough with the imprint in it somewhere in your classroom where it can dry for a few days.
9. After a few days when the dough is dry, make your final observations and conclusions.



Imprint! - *Trace Fossils*

Observations

What is the result of pressing your object into the soft dough and removing it?

What is the result of letting your dough harden?

Conclusion (Answer):

How is this experiment like the process of a trace fossil forming?
