

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
THIRD GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Play-doh Fossils

Theme: Earth/Space Science

Unit Number: **Unit Title:** Rocks, Minerals, Soil and Fossils

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):

- S3E2. Students will investigate fossils as evidence of organisms that lived long ago.**
- a. Investigate fossils by observing authentic fossils or models of fossils or view information resources about fossils as evidence of organisms that lived long ago.
 - b. Describe how a fossil is formed.

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Fossils,
Mold, cast, imprint, and whole animal fossil

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Process of how fossils are formed, the types of fossils, and why it is important to learn about fossils will be taught. Then each student will make their own cast fossil.

Details: It is helpful to have a PowerPoint for pictures; however, you can just bring in your own pictures.

Start off by explaining them how fossils are formed and at the same time show them pictures of fossilization process. Then explain the different types of fossils and also show pictures. Finally, tell them why learning about fossils is important. Ask questions at the end to review.

Then explain the hands-on activity and allow each student to make their own mold fossil.

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

- Buy enough play-doh so each student can have a small ball.
- Ziplock bags for each ball of play-doh
- Some twigs, leaves, and rocks for them to -use as mold imprints.
- Pictures/powerpoint

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

Buy the packs of play-doh in a can and divide the play-doh up by first tearing the entire piece and then tear the resulting 2 pieces in half again so you have 4 pieces per can. Each piece should be used as 1 ball.

Warn them not to ingest anything.

Sources/References:

- 1) Edited from submission by Jessica Valle (2010)
- 2)
- 3)