



Lesson: Research a Fossil!

Grade level: 3-8

Preparation time: None

Activity duration: Anywhere between 2 hours and a week

Learning objectives:

- Students will conduct independent research on a fossil of their choice.
- Students will identify the placement of their fossil on a historical timeline.
- Students will use evidence to construct an artistic depiction of the organism.
- Students will create a short written report about their fossil, with sources listed.

Lesson materials:

- Internet access
- Posterboard or large pieces of paper for display
- *World Encyclopedia of Fossils and Fossil Collecting*
- Colored pencils
- Drawing paper (regular computer paper works, too)

Lesson procedure:

- Review the fossil vocabulary sheet with students.
- On an individual basis, allow students to choose a favorite fossil from the book. For their fossil research poster, they should create the following elements:
 - A written report that includes information about where the fossil was found, the type of fossil it is, and what we know about it
 - Ideas about the organism's habitat, diet, and appearance, all based on the evidence provided by the fossil
 - A timeline, with an identification of when their organism may have died
 - A list of sources that they used for their research
 - An artistic depiction of their organism in its habitat