Fossil Finders Year 3

Duration: 1 hour, max capacity 35 students
Discover prehistoric worlds through playful and imaginative activities. Students will make a plaster cast fossil, examine rocks, search for fossils in dig-pits and find out about some of the amazing creatures that once roamed the Earth.

Key Words:

Learning objectives
Recognise that long ago the world looked very different to today, and that many living things looked different too
Understand that we can learn about these ‘long ago’ living things by looking at fossils
Many living things that lived a long time ago and now extinct
Understand that rocks can tell us about the environmental and climatic conditions at the time they were formed
Understand that fossils are the preserved remains or traces of living things that lived long ago
Understand that fossils can be formed by different processes
Appreciate that we usually find fossils in rocks
Understand how some fossils are formed from a mould and a cast
Experience how everyday materials such as plasticine are used to make a mould and plaster used to make a cast
Identify people who look for and study fossils as palaeontologists

Content
Investigate fossils and other artefacts using their sense of touch
Identify rock types and how they were formed
Examine impressive fossils that illustrate a range of different formation processes
Search for buried fossils like a palaeontologist
Make a plaster cast of a fossil

Curriculum Links:
Year 3: Rocks. Compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties
Year 3: Rocks. Describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock
Year 3: Rocks. Recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter

Potential Hazards and accessibility
Students will be using dental plaster and sand pits, and handling fossils, rocks and shells
Some of the fossils are heavy but will be examined safely over a table