

In DinoDig your students will have the opportunity to become working paleontologists, using tools to gather information about dinosaurs and fossils and observe patterns on rocks in the dig site.

Paleontologists use many tools when uncovering fossils and working in the dig site. Field Notes are used to record observations and measurements in the field. Other tools such as paint brushes, chisels, rock hammers, tape measures, rulers, and small digging tools are also used in the field.

Pre-visit activities:

Bring in a variety of tools used by paleontologists in the field and discuss the purpose and use of the tools. Practice using the tape measure to measure items in the classroom and discuss the importance of exact measurement.

Create a field journal for your class. Practice recording observations in the journal. Emphasize key ideas that should be recorded in the journal. Observe (to look or notice) an object. What do you notice about the object? Record your observation in your field journal. Draw what you see and label it. Measure the object and record the measurements in your journal. Try your hand at making rubbings in your journal.



Post-visit activities:

Set up an “excavation site” on your playground or in your classroom. Students should create a map of the site including all their findings. Introduce a grid system used by paleontologists to make accurate drawings in the dig site.

<http://www.uen.org/Lessonplan/preview.cgi?LPid=9968>

Want to know more:

Primary Paleontologists/ NSTA

http://www3.nsta.org/main/news/pdf/sc9901_r6.pdf

What’s the difference? Activities to teach

Paleontology and Archaeology

<http://beyondpenguins.nsdl.org/issue/column.php?date=April2008&departmentid=curriculum&columnid=curriculum!lessons>



TEKS:

K: 2A,E, 3C, 4A,B

1st: 2A,E, 3C, 4A,B

2nd: 2A,E,F, 3C, 4A,B

3rd: 2A , 3A, 4A

4th: 2A, 3B,C, 4A

5th: 3A,C, 4A, 7A

6th: 3C



FORT WORTH MUSEUM
SCIENCE AND HISTORY

1600 Gendy Street • Fort Worth, Texas 76107 • 817.255.9300 • fortworthmuseum.org