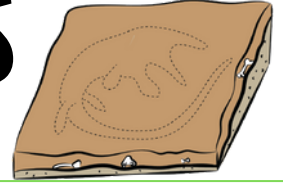




IMPRINT FOSSILS

Grades K-3



MAKE AN IMPRINT FOSSIL

Students will make an imprint fossil

G'DAY!

10 min

STORY & SNACK

20 min

SPORTS / GAMES

30 min

Materials:

- Hula hoops, or masking tape to make squares
- Music

G'day is Australian for hello!

Greet your students. Be friendly. Use their name, ask a question, give a high five, or thumbs-up! Take roll. Mark down which students took a snack and tally how many snacks were given out.

Read the story:

Today's story is called Imprints are Fossils. Read the story to your students outside as they sit in a circle.

Sharks and Islands

Students will play Sharks and Islands as they race to islands for safety.

Instructions- In the designated play area, set up several hula hoops or squares using masking tape. These will be the Islands. Choose a few students to be the sharks. To play the game, students will all "swim" around the play area while listening to beachy themed music. When the music stops, students will race to the islands and the sharks will chase after them to try to tag them before they make it to an island. More than one student may be on an island, but they must all totally be on/in the island or they can be tagged by the sharks. If a student is tagged by a shark, they become a shark when the music begins again. After a few rounds, start removing islands so there is a greater race to get an island, and more students will become sharks. When all the students become sharks, the game can end or begin again.

STEM TIME

50 min

Materials:

- Spoons
- Foil Pans 1/group to mix in
- Paper Plates 1/student
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups salt
- 2 cups warm water
- Shells from the Marine Habitat's Koa crate (STEMTaught Shelf)

NATURE JOURNALING

15 min

CLEAN UP / FREE PLAY

25 min



Make an Imprint Fossil

In this lab students will be making an imprint fossil using a salt dough mixture. Read the directions with your students so they understand the basic idea of what they'll be doing. Remind students that this is not for eating!

Explain:

-At the bottom of the ocean is a lot of small particles of mud, sand, and dead sea creatures that are constantly falling through the water and covering the sea floor. When creatures dig or burrow or come to rest in this mud the shape can be preserved as an imprint. Today we get to make our own salty ocean floor mud. What kind of imprints will you make?"

Instructions:

Say- "Let's go on a nature walk to find some cool materials for our imprints. What kind of imprint will you make?" Have students go on a nature walk and collect something that they want to use to make an imprint in the dough: leaves, sticks, shells (from marine habitat crate), toy dinosaurs, bones, etc.

This is a great activity to do outdoors, but can be done inside the kitchen as well! Pair students up in groups of 5 to make salt dough using the recipe.

Roll out salt dough and cut out mediums sized circles. Have students take their leaves, sticks, shells, etc., and make imprints into their circles of salt dough.

1. In a large bowl, stir together 2 cups of salt and 1 cup of warm water.
2. Slowly stir in the 2 cups of flour to the salt and water mixture.
3. Knead the mixture by hand to better combine the ingredients. The mixture should become doughy; add more flour if needed.
4. Divide the dough among the students and start creating.
5. Leave them in the sun to harden for a day or 2.

Ask:

-*"Have you ever sculpted with clay or play-doh?"*

-*"What types of materials make good imprints?"*

Instructions:

Say - "Today we got to do a fun activity full of collecting, mixing and creating our own fossil imprints. Write a journal entry about your experience.

Clean up/Free play/Dismissal

Allow your students some free time. Some students may wish to finish working on their STEM project. Others may want to journal or scrapbook about their day. Other students may want to go outside to play. Clean up, pack up.