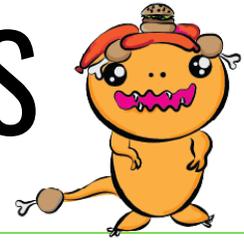




# MICROFOSSILS

Grades K-3



## SORT MICROFOSSILS

Students sort 20 million year old microfossils.

### G'DAY!

10 min

### STORY & SNACK

20 min

### SPORTS / GAMES

30 min

### Materials:

- Paper
- Tape

### 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 Mary Anning. Read the first half of the story to your students outside as they sit in a circle.

### Ancient Sea Creature Bone Hide and Seek

Students will play as paleontologists as they search for ancient sea creature bones hidden around their play area.

Instructions- The STEM Coaches will use paper and tape to make ancient sea creature bones by crumbling up the paper and forming the paper into bone shapes. The STEM Coaches will hide the ancient sea creature bones around the play area. Tell the students that today they will be paleontologists as they play hide and seek to find the bones hidden in the school yard.

\*If the STEM Coaches are feeling creative, they may create a small and simplified ancient sea creature skeleton, such as an Ichthyosaur, with their bones, and then hide those bones for the students to find and assemble the ancient sea creature skeleton.



## STEM TIME

50 min

### Materials:

- Tobey tweezers
- Meeka microscopes
- Petri dishes
- Microfossil sediment
- Fossil Identification Guides
- Fossil Sorting Sheets

### Sort microfossils

In this lab students will be sorting through a 20 million year old fossil-rich sediment from an age called the Miocene. The microfossils they will find will give them clues about what the ancient ecosystem was like.

Project link: <https://www.stemtaught.com/fossil-discovery>

**Note:** If you are using a STEMTaught fossil sediment sample, please notify students that they cannot keep the fossils and they must return them to their teacher after the activity. These fossils are very special samples for your school and scientific collections need to stay together!

### Instructions:

1. Before administering this activity watch the teacher prep movie to get ready. ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0N6eU\\_zB88](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0N6eU_zB88))
2. Show class movie: "Digging for Fossils". (<https://youtu.be/YcvOjfdtciM>)
3. Each student gets a scoop of sediment in a petri dish and takes it to their desk.
4. Students identify, tally, and graph the microfossils that they find using the Fossil Identification Guide.

Look through the guide with your students and have them sort their microfossils into categories and tally up the fossils of each type using the lab sheet.

5. Have students graph the fossils they found on their lab sheet.

### Ask:

- "What kind of fossils did you guys find?"
- "What did you see under the microscope?"

### Instructions:

Say - "Today we get to start our Nature Journals! Do you remember the illustrations of fossils in our story? Those were drawn by Mary Anning. She carefully looked at her fossils and drew every one. Today you are each going to get to draw a microscopic fossil! Take time to look carefully through your microscope and pick your favorite fossil. Carefully draw what you see. You can draw a small part of the object or the whole thing. Focus on the details you see in the fossil. Your drawing can be big or small"

### 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.

## NATURE JOURNALING

15 min

## CLEAN UP / FREE PLAY

25 min

