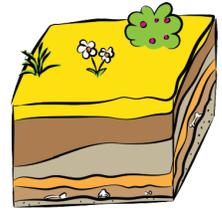




MICROFOSSILS

Grades K-3/Grades 4-8



SORT MICROFOSSILS

Students sort 20 million year old microfossils.

G'DAY!

2:30-2:40 pm
10 min

STORY & SNACK

2:40-3:00 pm
20 min

SPORTS / GAMES

3:00-3:30 pm
30 min

Materials:

- 4 different colored hula hoops
- 10+ balls and beanbags

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 The Princess of Paleontology. Read to your students outside as they sit in a circle.

Capture the Dinosaur Eggs

This game is a variation of the game Rob the Nest. Students will work in teams to get as many balls to their base as possible.

Instructions- Set up the four different colored hoops. One for each corner of the playing field. These hoops will be the dinosaur nests. Put all the balls and bean bags in a pile in the center of the playing field. These will be the dinosaur eggs. Organize the students into four dinosaur families. Have each family stand at their nests. The colored hoops will be the family names (blue family, red family, etc.). The families will compete to try to get as many eggs in their nest as possible. When the instructor says "Go!" One player at a time from each family will run to collect one egg at a time, and bring it back to their nest. The type of egg the player picks will determine the way the player brings back the egg. If it is a soccer ball, the player must kick the ball between their feet on their way back to the nest. If it is a basketball, the player must dribble the ball. If it is a bean bag, they must balance it on their head. If it is a soft foam ball or bouncy ball, they must put it between their legs and hop back to the nest. Players will run to collect eggs from the nest until all the eggs have been collected. Once all the eggs are in the nests, the instructor will shout, "Capture the Dino Eggs!" At this point, all the players will be given 1 to 2 minutes to run to the other players nest and collect one egg at a time. Players are not allowed to guard or block others from taking the eggs from their nests. Once the time is up, the instructor will shout, "Stop!" The team with the most eggs in their nest wins!

STEM TIME

3:30-4:20 pm
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)
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.
6. Continue activity on Day 10.

Ask:

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

Instructions:

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/dismissal

Clean up, pack up and practice lining up.

JOURNALING / FREE PLAY

4:20-4:40 pm
20 min

CLEAN UP / DISMISSAL

4:40-5:00 pm
20 min