



Fossils

Children find it hard to understand anything that is older than themselves; old usually refers to things that look very used. Ideas of fossils are often linked to dinosaurs and television programmes and films. Some children believe that fossils are the remains of plants and animals not an imprint or minerals that have replaced the animal's bones.

Support is needed to develop ideas about:

- Life on earth over millions of years
- Animals and plants have and can be extinct
- Plants and animals can be preserved – fossils
- The environment in which animals and plants once lived
- The process in which fossils are created

Working scientifically

Begin with what children know, children should handle fossils, ask and answer their own questions. Engage children in systematic observations of fossils, comparing similarities and differences between fossils and using evidence from observations, identification keys, photographs, books, internet to answer their original questions. Children can make fossils.

Key scientific vocabulary

Animals, classification, extinct, fossils, imprint, minerals, paleontologist, plants, preserve, process, rocks, sedimentary, sediments

Link to resource packages

Year 3 Rocks: www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/elibrary/list/6946/year-3-rocks

Was this resource useful?

Try our others on:

- Identifying and naming common plants, animals
- Classification of plants and animals
- Evolution and inheritance
- Digestive system in humans
- Forces – that motion can be transferred using gears and pulleys