

## Fossils



### **Supplies Needed:**

5oz paper cup  
Plaster of Paris  
Petroleum jelly  
Styrofoam bowl  
Modeling clay  
Small objects such as shells  
for fossil imprints  
Various shades of brown  
acrylic paint  
Paintbrush

### **Helpful Hint:**

This is a two day activity.

### **To Begin:**

1. Take a half stick of modeling clay and roll it into a ball.
2. Firmly press the palm of your hand on top of the ball. Continue to apply pressure flattening the clay until it is approximately the same size as the bottom of the bowl.
3. Place the flattened clay into the bottom of the bowl.
4. Apply a thin layer of petroleum jelly over the shells or other objects you have chosen to use for making imprints.
5. Press the item down slowly into the modeling clay. There may be enough room for a couple objects.



6. Gently remove the items so that you can see the imprints in the modeling clay.
7. Fill the 5oz paper cup half way with Plaster of Paris powder.
8. Add 2 1/2 tablespoons of tap water and mix to a thick consistency.
9. Pour the mixture into the bowl over the modeling clay. Let it dry over night.

### **Day 2:**

1. Place your hand on the top of the bowl and tip it upside down. The Plaster of Paris mold should slip out of the bowl.
2. Carefully peel the modeling clay away from the Plaster of Paris.
3. You can now paint your dried creation with different shades of brown acrylic paint. This will make it look more like a fossil that has been freshly unearthed.

