

Name _____ Date _____

Make a Fossil

Procedure

1. **Use Models** Make a model of a fossil (FAHS uhl). A **fossil** is the remains, or traces, of a living thing preserved in some way. Mold a piece of clay into a thick, flat layer. Press an object into the clay until the object makes an imprint. Carefully remove the object.
2. Exchange imprints with a partner. Do not let your partner see the object that you used to make the imprint.
3. **Record Data** Use a hand lens to look closely at your partner's imprint. Record your observations of the imprint.

4. **Hypothesize** Based on your observations, try to identify the object that was used to make your partner's imprint.
5. **Use Models** Now exchange objects with your partner. Record the similarities and differences between your partner's object and the imprint made from it.

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Conclusion

1. **Infer** What clues about organisms can scientists learn from studying fossils?

2. **Infer** What cannot be learned from fossils? What other evidence can scientists use to study organisms of long ago?

Experiment

Guided Inquiry

Collect other natural objects to make into fossils.
Hypothesize which objects will make good fossils.
Carry out an experiment to test your hypotheses.
