

# 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 on the lines below.

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- 4. Hypothesize** Based on your observations, try to identify the object that was used to make your partner's imprint.

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- 5. Use Models** Now exchange objects with your partner. On the lines below, record the similarities and differences between your partner's object and the imprint made from it. Think about what can be seen from the imprint and what cannot.

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## Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

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

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2. **Compare** How is studying a live organism different from studying a fossil imprint?

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## Investigate More!

**Research** Use the library or Internet to find out what types of fossils have been found in your area. Write a brief report about what has been learned by studying these fossils.