

Make a Fossil



Procedure

- 1. Use Models** A fossil (FAHS uhl) is the remains of an organism that lived long ago and is preserved in some way. To make a model of a fossil, mold a piece of clay into a thick, flat layer. Press an object into the clay until it makes an imprint. Carefully remove the object.
- 2. Collaborate** Exchange imprints with a partner. Do not let your partner see the object used to make your imprint.
- 3. Observe** Use a hand lens to study your partner's imprint. Record your observations below. Based on your observations, try to identify the object used to make your partner's imprint.

- 4. Use Models** Now exchange objects with your partner. Record the similarities and differences between your partner's object and the imprint made from it.

Conclusion

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

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

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

Guided Inquiry