

SIDE QUEST - CAN YOU LEARN ABOUT FOSSILS?

In this side quest, can you solve the challenge of discovering what makes a fossil?

Fossils in this kit!

- Petrified wood (reddish rainbow color) 
- shark tooth 
- fish vertebra (round fossil) 
- sea snail (white fossil) 
- agatized snail fossil (brown see through) 

1



Gather your supplies.

2



Examine the five fossils included in your quest.

3

Make a fossil shark tooth necklace.



Taking your string and shark tooth, place the string through the metal loop on the top of the tooth. Tie a knot in the ends of the cord. You now have a necklace.

4



Gathering paints and markers from home, paint your plaster fossil cast. *Your plaster fossil cast may be a different shape.*

DID YOU KNOW?

Check out these cool facts about fossils below.



What is a fossil?: Fossils are formed when the remains and traces of animals or plants have been turned to rock through a process called fossilization. Many things can be fossilized from dinosaur skin to tree bark!

Fossil scientists: Scientists who study fossils are called paleontologists. Some paleontologists specialize in studying how the weather on Earth used to be. They use this knowledge to better understand climate change happening today!

Some fossils are very tiny: Some fossils, like those of tiny sea creatures called foraminifera, are so small you need a microscope to see them.

Fossils can be found on every continent: Fossils have been discovered on all seven continents, including Antarctica!

Some fossils are made from footprints: Called “trace fossils,” these record activities like walking, running, or even burrowing. They show how animals behaved in their environment.

The word “fossil” means “dug up”: It comes from the Latin word fossilis, which means “dug up,” because fossils are often buried underground and need to be excavated.

WHY?

In this adventure, you discovered fossils and began a fossil collection. While extinct animals and plants capture the imagination, they also are important to study. By understanding how ancient animals and plants lived, we are able to learn more about modern living organisms. This knowledge will hopefully help us prevent extinction and comprehend and predict extreme weather events related to climate change.



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