

Rock and Soil Home School Learning Lesson 5

L.O. To describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock.

Watch the clip below as an introduction:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/ks1-ks2-mary-anning/zn7gd6f>

Discuss the film. What must it have been like to be find such a thing? Why was she not recognised for what she had found?

What are fossils?

Fossils are simply the preserved remains of an animal or plant that lived millions of years ago. When animals or plants die, some of them may fall into mud or soft sand and, over time, the animal or plant might leave an imprint (a dent in the shape of the plant or animal). Over many years, it is then covered by layers of mud or sand and gradually the body falls apart and is dissolved. The layers of mud or sand harden into rock (sedimentary) preserving the impression (palaeontologists call this a 'mould fossil'). If the impression is then filled with minerals, it forms a 'cast fossil'.

Use the PowerPoint to help understanding of how a fossil is made. The BBC clip is helpful as well.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z9bbkqt/articles/z2ym2p3>

Task - Mould fossil

Using clay or a salt dough (which will then harden)/ or Play-Doh, make an impression using, e.g. a toy dinosaur, shell or for a modern fossil, a pen or plastic toy, as shown on the PowerPoint. Remove the object and you should be able to see the detail left in the impression. To record this, take a photograph of the mould fossil and create a set of instructions to explain how it was made.

Have fun fossil hunters!!

If you have any fossils at home have a look at them. What are they like? Can you send a picture of them into us? Or you could draw it into your exercise book.