

# FOSSIL MAKING

## Materials needed:

- one cup of salt
- two cups of flour
- ¾ cup of water
- mixing bowl
- mixing spoon
- measuring cup
- shells or plastic toys (something to make fossil impressions)
- cookie sheet
- oven mitt
- spatula
- oven and parental help
- table
- plastic tablecloth (sometimes science can be a bit messy so be sure that when doing experiments, you are using a space that is okay to be a bit messy in and taking precautions, like putting down a tablecloth)

## Now that we have all our materials let's make some fossils.

**Step 1:** Measure out one cup of salt into the mixing bowl.

**Step 2:** Add two cups of flour and mix with the salt.

**Step 3:** Mix in ¾ cup of water. You can stir with the spoon at first then stick your hands into the mixture.

**Step 4:** Once the dough forms, pinch off small pieces and flatten them into rounded cookie shapes. But don't eat them. This dough won't taste good.

**Step 5:** Press your shell, plastic dinosaur, or whatever you want to make a fossil of into your dough. Do this for each piece of dough "cookie".

**Step 6:** Now to make our fossils permanent, you will need to bake your dough fossils in the oven. You will need a parent to help with this part. Set the oven temperature to 200 degrees. That's hot so you need a parent to help with this part.

**Step 7:** Put your dough fossils on the cookie sheet, you may need a spatula to do this. Then have an adult put the cookie sheet into the oven.

**Step 8:** Now you have to wait. Bake at 200 degrees until your fossil is dry. The amount of time needed to bake depends on size and thickness; thin flat fossils may only take 45-60 minutes, thicker fossils can take 2-3 hours or more.

**Step 9:** When your fossils are ready let them cool before you touch them. Again be sure to ask an adult for help with this part.

**Step 10:** Take a look at the incredible fossils that you made!

**Step 11:** Clean up! You always want to be sure that when you make a fun science mess you also clean up the fun science mess.