

# MAKE: FOSSIL PRINTS

## A MONTH OF HOLIDAY IDEAS

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Fossils are the preserved remains or trace of something that lived a long time ago. Fossils give scientists clues about the past and help us understand the history of life on earth. Let's make our own fossils with salt dough.



**YOU WILL NEED:** Salt, flour, water, mixing bowl, mixing spoon, chopping board, rolling pin, round cookie cutter.



**STEP 1:** Mix  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of salt to 1 cup flour until combined.



**STEP 2:** Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of water gradually until mixture is a soft dough. Knead it into a ball.



**STEP 3:** Sprinkle flour on your cutting board and rolling pin so the dough doesn't stick.



**STEP 4:** Roll out your dough until it is approximately 1cm thick.



**STEP 5:** Use a cookie cutter to create 'fossil' templates and remove excess dough.



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Now that you've made your salt dough and have your templates, find some items you would like to capture in time. It can be small objects from around the house or garden.



**YOU WILL NEED:** Items from your house and garden that you would like to preserve.



**STEP 1:** Press each object into your dough so that it leaves a mark.



**STEP 3:** Carefully remove the objects so that only the imprint remains.



**STEP 4:** Allow your fossils to air dry overnight or have an adult help you bake them in the oven at 150°C for 2 hours. Hide your fossils in the garden and become an archaeologist to find them!

**DISCOVER** interesting fossil facts with Encyclopaedia Britannica Online. How are fossils formed? What kinds of fossils exist? Are there any fossil sites? What can we learn from fossils?

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