

**Two ways to make a fossil**

Start by making salt dough, following the recipe below.

Younger kids will need parental help.

**How to make an imprint fossil:** (younger kids)

You need: salt dough, a small plastic dinosaur toy or leaf, and a small plate.

1. Roll salt dough into a ball and flatten it with the palm of your hand.  
  
2. Flatten the salt dough onto the plate.  
  
3. Press a small dinosaur toy or a leaf into the flattened salt dough. You can make impressions of the dinosaurs’ foot, body or the whole leaf.  
  
4. Set the fossil aside to dry overnight. Once it is hard, remove the toy or leaf and you will see the imprint it left.

**How to make Salt Dough**

2 cups flour

(whole wheat flour looks more like rock)  
1 cup salt  
1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1 teaspoon cream of tartar

1) Mix all the ingredients in a large pot. Cook slowly on medium heat stirring until thick.

2) Cool the dough

3) Store the dough in a plastic container with a tight lid and keep it in the refrigerator

**How to make a cast fossil:** (older kids)  
  
You need: salt dough, small paper cups, a small plastic dinosaur toy, and Plaster of Paris powder.

1. Form a ball of the salt dough and flatten down until it is a disc about 2 cm thick

2. Smooth the top of the dough disc.

3. Put the dough inside a paper cup with the smooth side facing up.

4. Gently press the object you want to fossilize into the salt dough until it is partly buried.  
5. Carefully remove your object from the salt dough. You’ll see an impression of the object left behind. This is the start of your homemade fossil!!!  
6. Pour half a cup of Plaster of Paris powder into the other paper cup.

7. Add a quarter cup of water to the plaster powder and stir until the mixture is smooth.

8. Let the mixture sit for two minutes. It will thicken   
9. When the mixture has thickened, pour it over the salt dough in the other cup.

10. Clean up while the plaster dries. Leave until the plaster has dried. Once dried tear away the sides of the paper cup, remove the modeling clay and you should see your own homemade fossil! You can even paint your fossil if you’d like.