

Fossils

Discover the different ways in which fossils are made and make your own fossils to keep.

A scientist that studies fossils is called a **palaeontologist**.

There are lots of different types of fossils that can be found. When you think of a fossil, what do you think of? You probably imagine large dinosaur bones or skeletons. These are called **body fossils**.

Body fossils are the fossilised remains of plants and animals, for example leaves and bones. One type of body fossil is a **mould and cast fossil** (you can find out more about how mould and cast fossils are made by using the 'How are fossils made?' worksheet).

Another type of fossil is called a **trace fossil**. These are the clues left behind that show us how dinosaurs and other animals lived such as footprints, burrows and coprolite (fossilised dung!).

What do I need?

- 1/2 cup of **flour** (~ 125 g)
- 1/4 cup of table **salt** (~ 63 g)
- 1/4 cup of **water** (~ 63 ml)
- Sharp **pencil** or cocktail stick
- Toy dinosaur** or any toy animal
(to make footprints)

Make your own ammonite

- 1:** Add the flour and salt into a large bowl and mix. Add the water a little bit at a time making sure you keep stirring until you have a dough.
- 2:** Split your dough in half. Shape half of your dough into a flat pebble shape and leave the other half to one side. Try not to play with it in your hands for too long as it can get very sticky!
- 3:** Once you have made a pebble shape, use a pencil to create the outline of an ammonite fossil into your dough. If you need help, try following our ammonite outline on the next page.
Remember! This doesn't have to be perfect - it should look millions of years old.
- 4:** Once your drawing is finished put your dough aside to dry. This will take a couple of days but once dried, it's yours to keep forever.

Make your own fossil footprints

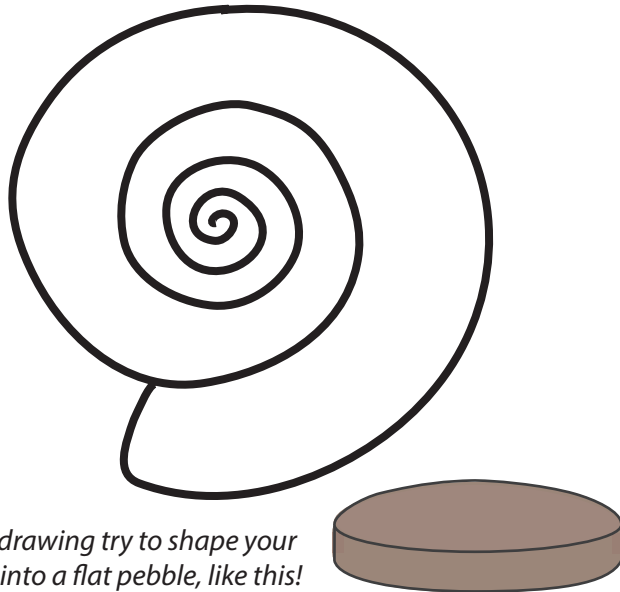
- 1:** Use the other half of your dough that you put aside earlier. *If you have not made any dough yet simply follow step 1 of 'How to make an ammonite' to create salt dough.*
- 2:** Shape your dough into a flat pebble shape. Try not to play with it in your hands for too long as it can get very sticky!
- 3:** Once you have made a pebble shape, use your toy dinosaur/animal and lightly press their feet into the surface of the dough. You want to make footprints in the dough, so add more to show your animal walking across the dough.
- 4:** Once your footprints are made put your dough aside to dry. This will take a couple of days but once dry, it's yours to keep forever.

What does an ammonite fossil look like?

Try copying the ammonite picture below to shape your dough!

STEP 1

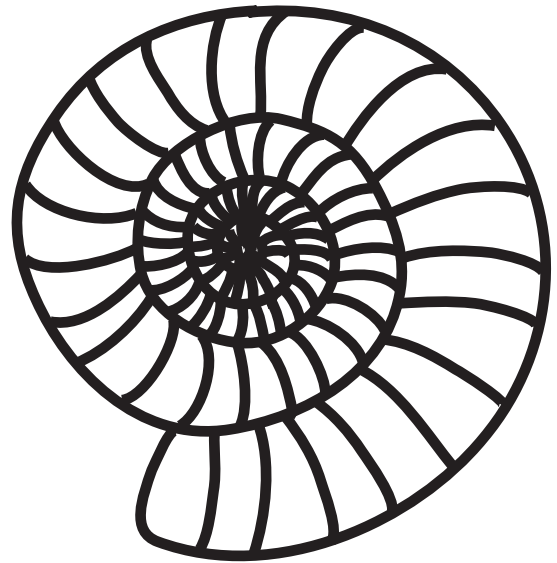
Make an imprint of a spiral using a pencil



Before drawing try to shape your dough into a flat pebble, like this!

STEP 2

Now add the lines that show the details of the ammonite shell.



Astounding ammonite facts!

Using the internet or a book to help you, challenge yourself to find the answers to the following astounding ammonite facts!

1. Where did ammonites live? Was it on land or in the sea?

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2. What size was the largest ammonite ever found?

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3. When did ammonites become extinct? *Bonus! What else went extinct at this time?*

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4. How did ammonites swim?

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5. What did ammonites look like when they were alive?

Draw a picture of one in the space opposite.

Bonus! Add labels to show the different parts of an ammonite.