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Fossil Prints

Fossils are the remains of an animal or plant that has turned to stone over many years. With this craft you will be able to make your own mold fossil: a fossilized impression made in clay.

You'll need:

- Modeling clay or salt dough
- Items to make prints, like a leaf, shell, or small toy
- *Optional:* paint and paint brush

What to do:

1. Smooth out the clay or salt dough (recipe below) into a flat form.
2. Press the item into the clay, creating an impression. If using a leaf, make sure it is face up with the veins and texture side on the clay. If it doesn't show clearly, smooth it out and start again.
3. Let it dry overnight, or longer if needed.
4. *Optional:* paint the fossil mold once it's completely dry.



Share your fossils!

Post a picture on social media and tag the museum! #MuseumFromHome

- Tag us on Facebook: @oregonnaturalhistory
- Tag us on Instagram: @mnch_uo
- Tag us on Twitter: @UO_MNCH

Salt dough recipe

- 1 1/4 cups salt
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups of water

Add the salt and flour together in a bowl. Mix and knead dough thoroughly. Start with a spoon, then use your hands to work out any lumps. When the dough is ready it will resemble bread dough. If it is too sticky, try adding a bit more flour. If it is too crumbly, try adding a bit more water.

