Dinosaur Detectives
Key Stage 2

Length of Session:

**90 minutes**: 45 min object handling session followed by 45 min self-guided trail in the Museum.

**Maximum group size:**

32 children plus 4 members of staff.

Session outline

- Use role-play to understand fossilisation and discover the definition of a dinosaur.
- Children will handle a wide range of fossils from bones to footprints and even fossilised poo!
- They learn how scientists can use fossils to interpret the past lives of dinosaurs and discover their evolutionary relationship with today’s living ‘dinosaurs’.
- Roam amongst our life-sized dinosaur skeletons with a self-guided trail.

National Curriculum Areas:

**Science**: Working Scientifically; Rocks; Living things and their habitats; Evolution and inheritance.
Suggestions for pre-visit activities

• Investigate what children know about fossils and whether anyone has ever found one.
• Discuss how the children think that fossils get into rocks and what they tell us about the past.
• Read ‘Stone Girl Bone Girl’ by Laurence Anholt with your class.
• Talk about each other’s favourite dinosaurs and see how many you list.
• Measure out and draw a life sized T-rex outline on the playground in chalk. Can you fit the whole class inside it?!

Suggestions for post-visit activities

• Cut out different sized dinosaur footprints. Can children work out the size of each dinosaur that made them? Use the maths skills they learnt at the Museum.
• Look at fossils that tell us about the other creatures that lived at the time of the dinosaurs, or the types of organisms that lived before and after them.
• Make a geological wall display showing different strata of rocks, the fossils that can be found in the periods they represent and how life has changed and evolved.
• Explore what the fossil record can tell us about human evolution.
• Visit our Learning Zone pages in investigate the fossil history of life at…http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/fossils/index.htm

Learning Outcomes

• Be able to describe in simple terms how fossils are formed and the type of rock that they are found within.
• Understand some of the simple characteristics by which dinosaurs and other reptiles are classified.
• Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.