



## EXPLORATION STATION: PALEONTOLOGY DIG!

**Fossil:** preserved remains, impressions, or traces of things once living, usually replacing living material with minerals. Idaho has plant, insect, water creature, mammal, and dinosaur fossils!

### To Do at the Park

#### **DIG IN!**

Bring along small sandbox shovel or kitchen spoons. Dig and brush to find shark teeth and shells, fossils from the seas that once covered this region.

Choose your dig level: U-shaped box for an older-kid challenge; square box for littles.

*Be courteous: choose your single favorite item to take home, and re-seed the bed for others!*

#### **DINOS ON DEMAND**

Mimic your favorite dino's moves and sounds; when the Dino Boss demands, everyone must:

- FLOOD: spin around in the current
- MUDSLIDE: roll on the ground
- ICE AGE: freeze-pose
- METEOR: run around

### Keep Exploring at Home

#### **Make a Good Impression**

Make up some fossil "sand": mix together 2 cups flour and 1/4 cup vegetable oil until the oil coats the flour evenly and it molds together. (Your fossil sand will keep in a ziplock bag for about a month.) Spoon into a disposable pie plate and pat it smooth.

Using an assortment of small toys, household items, and plant materials collected from outside your home, press them gently into the smoothed base.

Can you recognize and identify each item? Does it look the same or different than you expected?

#### **Make Edible Fossils**

Mix and pat your favorite cookie dough (we recommend sugar cookie, shortbread, or another smooth dough). Cut into rounds or squares.

Gently press small toys or edible plants into the dough to make a fossil impression. Bake and enjoy!

### **Learn More About It:**

- ⇒ Learn about fossil beds in Idaho: [www.sciencing.com/fossil-hunting-idaho-6165572.html](http://www.sciencing.com/fossil-hunting-idaho-6165572.html)
- ⇒ Explore the Idaho Museum of Natural History at Idaho State University: [www.isu.edu/imnh/](http://www.isu.edu/imnh/)
- ⇒ Check out fossils with National Geographic on Youtube: [https://youtu.be/bRuSmxJo\\_iA](https://youtu.be/bRuSmxJo_iA)

### CONSIDERATE EXPLORERS

- Are mindful of others waiting to use the station
- Are friendly with other explorers, from a responsible distance
- Leave a space tidy—no trash, no debris, ready for others to enjoy

New activities posting through the spring and summer! Learn more about North Bingham County Historical Park, with additional exploration stations and activities, at [www.NBCHistoricalPark.com](http://www.NBCHistoricalPark.com)