**Fossils**

1. What are some clues that paleontologists use to know where to excavate for fossils?

2) Examine your fossil imprints. What features can you see?

3) What features of your animal can you not tell from the fossil?

4) Looking at another group’s fossil, can you tell what animal it is? What features can you see?

5) Looking at the other group’s fossil, what questions are you left with that can’t be answered by studying the fossil?

**Fossil Facts**

1. Scientists who study fossils are called paleontologists.
2. When an animal or plant dies, it usually decays quickly.
3. Minerals dissolved in mud turn the remaining bones into stone.
4. Sometimes animal and plant remains are preserved, but not turned to stone. For example, bugs can get caught in sticky tree resin, which turns to amber over millions of years.
5. Fossils aren’t just bones. Footprints, animal burrows, and even poop are fossils!
6. Fossilized poop is called coprolites. Scientists have found coprolites from Tyrannosaurus Rex that contain bits of crushed bone.
7. Paleontologists usually find shells, bones, and teeth, not whole fossilized animals.
8. We know about dinosaurs because of fossils.
9. Paleontologists look for fossils at specific dig sites, but many fossils are found accidentally when people move rocks.
10. Fossils have been found on every continent on Earth.