



## Make your own salt dough trace fossils

Fossils are the remains of living things, plants or animals that have been preserved in rock. Fossils can be actual remains of a living thing, e.g. bone or shell, sometimes called a 'body fossil', or they can be 'trace' fossils such as a footprint.

Dinosaur footprints have been found in the UK on the Isle of Wight, South Wales and in Dorset. You can find pictures of these on the internet. They help scientists to understand how dinosaurs moved and give us an idea of their size.

**You can make your own trace 'fossils' by using salt dough.**

### You will need:

- 2 cups of plain flour
- 1 cup of salt
- 1 cup of water
- Plastic dinosaurs (or other animals)
- Any other objects that you wish to use to make imprints e.g. plants, shells, leaves, stones

### Directions:

1. Mix the flour and the salt in a mixing bowl.
2. Gradually add the water until you have a firm ball of dough. It is best to do this with your hands.
3. Sprinkle some flour onto a flat surface and roll out the dough.
4. Mould the dough into flat circular shapes – the size of your circles will depend on how big your objects are that you are using to make fossils.
5. Press your objects in to the dough and remove them very carefully. You can make footprints or lay your dinosaurs on their side.
6. You can leave your 'fossils' to air dry in a cool, dry place. This will take a few days. If you want them quickly, you can bake them in the oven at about 200 for an hour.

