



SECTION 8: FOSSILS

LAB

INTRODUCTION

Fossils show which organisms lived long ago. Most fossils are found in sedimentary rock. Organisms die and sediments, like mud, cover them. The organism decays and is dissolved by ground water that seeps into the rock. An impression is left. This is an imprint fossil. Minerals carried by ground water often flow into the imprint at a later time, creating a cast fossil, which is a replica of the organism.

ASSESSMENT ANCHORS ADDRESSED

- S4.A.2.2** Identify appropriate instruments for a specific task and describe the information the instrument can provide.
- S4.C.1.1** Describe observable physical properties of matter.
- S4.A.3.3** Identify and make observations about patterns that regularly occur and reoccur in nature.
- S4.D.1.2** Identify the types and uses of Earth's resources.

PURPOSE

Students will study a variety of fossils and then make a cast fossil.

MATERIALS

For Each Pair of Students

Trays	Fossils with fossil card
Magnifiers	Plaster of Paris
Sticks of clay	Petroleum jelly
Plastic spoons	Yogurt style cups with lid*
1 bag of shells	

*Teacher provides items marked with **