



## Make a Fossil

It takes thousands of years to create a fossil but you can do it in a week!

### WHAT YOU NEED

- ◆ A light plastic container to make the fossil in (e.g. a yoghurt pot or a fruit punnet)
- ◆ A sponge (any kind but the more holes the better)
- ◆ Some fine sand (enough to half fill your container)
- ◆ Bath salts
- ◆ A saucer or small tray

### WHAT TO DO

1. Create a shape from your fossil by cutting it out from the sponge – it could be a shell, a bone or a whole dinosaur.
2. Make a couple of small holes in the bottom of your container. Place it on a saucer or tray as you're going to pour water over it and you don't want it to spill!
3. Put some sand in the container about a 1cm of the way up and then place your sponge body on top and cover with another 2 cm of sand.
4. Mix 4 tablespoons of bath salts in 4 tablespoons of warm water and pour over the cup, letting the mix sink through the sand. Leave it somewhere safe and warm (e.g. a window ledge).
5. Replenish the water and salt mix at least once a day for at least five days. The longer you leave it the more fossilised it becomes.
6. Leave the sand to dry out for two days before removing the 'fossil' sponge. If it's still a little wet, leave the fossil for a few days before handling it.
7. The holes in the sponge trap the salts, mineralising the sponge, as they dry out it solidifies to create a fossil.

