



STEM Career Adventures: Paleontologist

Dig Site

Introduction to Career:

Child-friendly definition of a paleontologist: A scientist that studies dinosaurs and other animals or plants that lived millions of years ago (**Discovery Picture: Paleontologist**).

Adventure Description

You will think like a paleontologist and build your own dig site to find dinosaur fossils! Paleontologist: scientist that studies dinosaurs and other plants or animals that lived a long time ago.

Activity (20 minutes)

Step 1: Background on Dig Sites (5 minutes)

- Explain to explorers that many paleontologists work on dig sites to find fossils (show **Discovery Picture: Dig Sites**). Fossils are bones and other remains of animals and plants that lived thousands of years ago.
- Explain to explorers that there are a few things that paleontologists have to do when they to a dig site.
 - First, paleontologists create a grid (show **Discovery Picture: Dig Site Grid**). A grid is a special way to organize where paleontologists will dig. A grid is a group of lines that are put on a dig site. Paleontologists want to know where they find fossils, they put lines on the dig site to remember where they found it.
 - Then, they carefully look for and remove fossils from the ground. They use tools like brushes, picks, and shovels (show **Discovery Picture: Tools**).
 - Once the fossils have been removed, they write down observations about the fossils, like their size, shape, and where the fossil was found.
- Explain to explorers that they will get to set up their own dig site and look for fossils.

Step 2: Getting dig site set up (15 minutes)

- Divide explorers into small groups. Give groups Discovery Handout: Paleontologist Dig Instructions. Provide each group with a sand bin, sand, and rope. Explain to explorers that they will need to pour sand into their bins. Then, they need to lay pieces of string down to make a grid.

Contact Allison, Director of Customer Service, with any questions or feedback at 314-272-2560 or allison@rozzylearningcompany.com

Send photos of your explorers and their projects to allison@rozzylearningcompany.com to be featured on Rozzy's website, social media pages, and blog!



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- Have explorers hide 5 small items (like paper clips, coins, beads) in the sand or the fossils they made in another lesson.
 - Encourage explorers to hide the items in different parts of the bin.
- Finally, have explorers switch places with another group (this way, they can dig for new items). Have explorers carefully dig out items using spoons and other tools. Remind explorers they need to know where they found their items!

Materials List

Provided online:

- Discovery Picture: Paleontologist
- Discovery Picture: Dig Sites
- Discovery Picture: Dig Site Grid
- Discovery Picture: Tools
- Discovery Handout: Paleontologist Dig Instructions

Not provided:

Each small group needs:

- Bin
- Sand for bin
- 5 pieces of string
- 5 Small items (e.g. toys, coins, paper clips)

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