



STEM Career Adventures: Paleontologist

Ice Excavation

Introduction to Career:

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

Adventure Description

Explain to explorers that paleontologists have to dig in the ground and even ice to discover fossils that have been buried for thousands of years. Explorers will get to dig fossils out of the ice and tell others about what they find.

Instructor Preparation Notes

Note: This activity requires prep to be done the day before the dig

- The day before the dinosaur dig:
 - Have a balloon for each explorer (or groups of explorers) and insert one plastic dinosaur (or plastic toy into each balloon.
 - Fill up balloons with water.
 - Tie balloons and place them in the freezer to freeze overnight.
- The day of the dig:
 - Take balloons out of the freezer and remove the balloon; only the frozen dinosaurs should be left!
 - Take the frozen dinosaurs to the explores to complete the experiment.



Activity 1: Ice Excavation (10 minutes)

- Explain to explorers that paleontologists have to dig in the ground, and even ice, to find dinosaur bones! When they dig, they use many different tools to help them (show **Discovery Picture: Dinosaur Dig**).
- Next, have explorers be paleontologists and remove the dinosaur or toy from the ice! Provide explorers with a dropper and warm water, or other tools to help chip away or melt the ice.
 - Explorers can work independently or in groups to complete this activity.

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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Activity 2: Sharing Your Findings (10 minutes)

- When explorers are finished with their ice excavation, explain that paleontologists make a chart of everything they have found.
- Have explorers write or draw what they found on **Discovery Page: Ice Excavation**.
- Then, as a group, make a chart of the different items. Discuss ways to categorize them: size, color, shape, type of item.

Materials List

Provided online:

- Discovery Picture: Paleontologist
- Discovery Page: Dinosaur Dig
- Discovery Picture: Ice Excavation

Not provided:

- Balloons for each explorer or group of explorers
- Warm water
- Plastic dinosaurs or another toy or manipulative
- Droppers or other tools to do a dig

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