

# Make Your Own Fossil Imprints

When an object gets pushed into mud, it creates an imprint. Over time, that imprint hardens and becomes a fossil. Try it in this fun, simple activity.

## What You Need:

Playdough

Objects to imprint:

seashells, fossils (trilobites, brachiopods),  
small plastic toys, etc.

Newspaper or wax paper (optional)



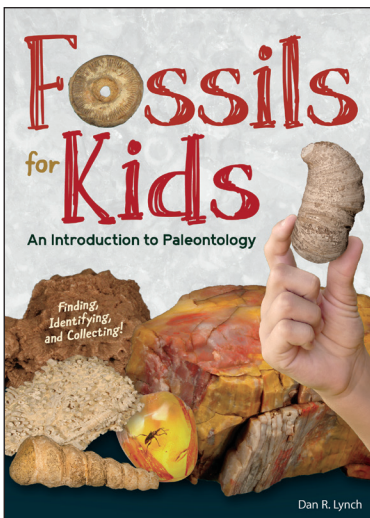
*A trilobite fossil and the imprint it left in stone*

## What to Do:

For easier cleanup, lay down newspaper or wax paper before starting. Flatten playdough until it's about an inch thick. Carefully take a seashell/fossil/toy and press it down in the playdough. Then carefully pull it back out. It will leave behind an imprint—and if you let it sit for a million years, your playdough fossil could be mistaken for the real thing!

## Try It Again:

Flip over the object and repeat the activity. The resulting “fossil” will look different. Sometimes, with real fossils, scientists find both halves of the same object imprinted in rock.



Become a young paleontologist. Dan R. Lynch presents a kids' introduction to fossils. This easy-to-understand book is perfect for beginners.

### INSIDE YOU'LL FIND

- “How to” section, including details on what to look for and where to look
- The basics of paleontology and how fossils formed
- Rules about what you can and can't collect
- Identification guide to common and collectible invertebrate fossils, such as trilobites, as well as common rock shop finds



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