

## Moulds and Fossils

Many children get excited when they see an old bone on a beach. Questions like what is it? How old is it? Is it a dinosaur bone?

Today we are going to make moulds and press in shapes before they dry and make fossil moulds. One idea is to make a mould of your hand or foot. Or it could be shells or small plastic dinosaurs. Beware of messes!

The moulds could be made of coffee grounds or plaster of Paris

### Coffee grounds

You need

- 1 cup of used coffee grounds
- 1/2 cup of cold coffee
- 1 cup of flour
- 1/2 cup of salt
- Wax paper
- Mixing bowl
- Empty can or a butter knife
- Toothpicks, optional
- String to hang your fossil, optional

What to do

1. Get a grown up to brew a small amount of coffee (you'll only need ½ cup for the activity) and save the grounds. Allow time for the coffee to cool.
2. For younger kids, you may want to measure out the ingredients ahead of time, but older kids will enjoy measuring.
3. Stir together the coffee grounds, coffee, flour, and salt, until well mixed.
4. Knead the dough and then flatten it out onto the wax paper.
5. Use the can to cut out circles (or the cookie cutters/knife to cut out fun shapes).



6. Press the small objects firmly into the dough, to leave an imprint. Remove the object, and there's your fossil!
7. You can use a toothpick to poke a small hole near the edge of the coffee ground fossils, if you want to hang it later.
8. Let the coffee ground fossils dry and harden overnight

### **Plaster of Paris**

You need

- Plaster of Paris
- Water
- Petroleum jelly
- Small natural objects such as seashells
- Paper cups
- Plastic spoons
- Newspaper or paper towels

What to do – watch the videoclip below

- <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Fossils-Using-Plaster-of-Paris>

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