

Big Dig Adventures



From bones, teeth and footprints to leaves and feathers...
Fossils come in many forms and can tell us a lot about evolution and past life on Earth. Come with us on a big dig adventure to see what you can discover.

For even more programme ideas check out our 'Big Dig' board over on www.Pinterest.com/PawprintFamily

#AdventureForAll
www.PawprintFamily.com

Meet the FAMILY

Hi there! We're Charlotte & Jamie, the husband and wife team behind the Pawprint Family and we believe in #AdventureForAll.

It's our mission to help leaders, teachers and parents save time by providing ideas and opportunities to help them deliver everyday adventure and skills for life. We do this through our family of brands; find out more below and head to the website for your next adventure!



PAWPRINT BADGES

Pawprint Badges provides thousands of free activity ideas and resources to help leaders, teachers and parents deliver fun and adventure.

Every activity helps you share skills for life and is linked to one of our pawesome embroidered badges. Build your collection and celebrate adventures, new skills and knowledge gained.

PAWPRINT TRAILS

Pawprint Trails are treasure-hunt style walks around locations in the UK. Solve puzzles, track down the answers and explore everything our great country has to offer.

From historical sights to popular culture discover something new or rediscover a love for where you live then collect the badge to remember your adventures!

Whether you're looking for the perfect addition to your next family holiday or a few hours of fun with friends; each trail can be completed in a few hours or extended with our activity suggestions in to a weekend or a week's worth of fun!

PAWPRINT TALES

Pawprint Tales are fully illustrated stories that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Join Alfie (our fox-red Labrador) on his adventures around the UK - solving puzzles, turning detective and making new friends. With twists and turns, every tale is an opportunity to discover new places, people and history without needing to leave the comfort of your own home.

Enjoy Pawprint Tales alongside your Pawprint Trails or as a standalone adventure!

PAWPRINT TRUST

Every brand in the Pawprint Family supports the Pawprint Trust with a percentage of profits from every sale providing grants to young people. We're passionate about enabling young people to access life changing adventures.

Share your adventures and join us over on our social channels for even more adventures and a nosy behind the scenes at Pawprint HQ!



@pawprintfamily



@pawprint_family

HOW TO: Use Your Challenge Pack



This Challenge Pack has been divided into 4 sections: Craft, Food, Games and Other. In order to help you provide a balanced and varied programme for your young adventurers we recommend that the following number of activities are completed by each age group:

Age 3 - 5						
Age 5 - 7		Craft	Food	Games	Other	PICK
Age 7 - 11	+					
Age 11 - 14	+					
Age 14 - 18	+					
Age 18+	+					

Leaders, Teachers & Parents
Award yourselves a badge for supporting your young adventurers in their activities!

TOP TIPS

- Adapt activities as necessary to meet your needs.
- Add your own activity ideas or develop them into projects.
- Use what you have; don't buy in lots of new materials/equipment.
- No need to send us evidence, responsible grown-ups decide when the badge has been earned.
- One challenge badge can take as long as you like; from a few hours to days or even a full term!

Terms of Use

By downloading or purchasing this resource you agree to our terms of use as outlined below. As a husband and wife team we work hard to keep all of our resources and activity ideas available free of charge; we can only do this with your help.

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Craft

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- ✂ Make salt dough dinosaur fossils. You could add coffee grounds for some extra sandy texture.
- ✂ Have a go at drawing different types of animal teeth and bones.

Why?

The most common fossils to be discovered are bones and teeth, this is due to them being hard parts of organisms which are less likely to be eaten by scavengers.

- ✂ Put together an outfit that an archaeologist might wear for a dig.
- ✂ Press shells, leaves, sticks or dinosaur toys into play dough.
- ✂ Try painting the shape of a dinosaur skeleton using only your fingers.
- ✂ Make a collage of different fossils that have been discovered over the years. You could find the images online and print them off or cut them out of an old magazine.
- ✂ Draw a range of different fossils using white chalk on brown paper.
- ✂ Print your own fossil design.

How?

Cut some polystyrene into a square shape, you can do this once or multiple times to experiment with a variety of designs. Once you have your polystyrene square, press your fossil design into it using a sharp pencil. Use a roller to apply an even layer of ink, turn over and press into your choice of paper or card (you might want to use a clean roller to apply pressure to get the best final effect). Then peel off your polystyrene to reveal your unique fossil print!

- ✂ Pick your favourite animal and draw what you think their fossils would look like.
- ✂ Cut some fossil shapes into a potato and get involved with some potato printing.
- ✂ Create your own dig site out of recycled materials. Is it on land or in water? What kinds of fossils do you think might be discovered there?
- ✂ Construct some papier mache fossils. You could recreate bones, shells, teeth, footprints or even leaves or feathers.



Food

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- ✂ Decorate biscuits to look like fossils. You could even bury them in some crushed chocolate cookies or digestives to look like sand or soil.
- ✂ Construct your own dinosaur fossils using dried pasta or savory twig shaped snacks.
- ✂ Try some classic Australian dishes.

Why?

The oldest fossil to have been discovered was in Western Australia. It is called Cyanobacteria and is said to be over 3.5 billion years old.

- ✂ Cut up some vegetables such as cucumber or pepper to create some dinosaur footprints.
- ✂ Hold a fossil themed buffet and serve to your family, friends or group.
- ✂ Make some amber fossil lollipops using the YouTube tutorial saved onto our 'Big Dig Adventures' Pinterest board.
- ✂ Create an edible dig site.

Did you know?

Fossils have been found in every continent on Earth and were even found on top of Mount Everest in 1953 and in Antarctic ice in 1833!

- ✂ Bake a dinosaur fossil cake.
- ✂ Whip up some rocky road using your favourite chocolates, biscuits and sweets.

Here's an idea!

There are three main types of rock: igneous sedimentary and metamorphic. They are each formed by physical changes such as melting, cooling and eroding and are all part of the rock cycle. Why not make three batches of rocky road using a variety of ingredients to represent the three different types of rock? You could use white, milk and dark chocolate, one for each layer.

- ✂ Put together some sandwiches in the shape of footprints.
- ✂ Bake some rock cakes, a crumbly tea-time favourite!



Games

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- ✦ Archaeologists study sites, record and preserve objects as well as researching human history through study of artifacts. Act out a day in the life on an archaeologist.
- ✦ Go head to head in a game of fossil snap.
- ✦ Can you dig it? Create a dig site and challenge your family, friends or group to see who can dig the most fossils (plastic toys) up in the fastest time.

Here's an idea!

Fossils are not only found on land in sand and mud but also in bodies of water such as seas, lakes and rivers. Try placing some of the toys underwater for an extension on this game.

- ✦ How many different types of dinosaur can you name in two minutes? For a more challenging game you could write an A-Z list down on a piece of paper and try to name one for each of the letters.
- ✦ The Tyrannosaurus Rex was bipedal which means they walked on 2 legs instead of 4. See how well your pair of legs works by running and jumping your way to gold in a Dino Olympics!

Did you know?

Based on fossils discovered, scientists have determined that a Tyrannosaurus Rex could have been up to 40 feet long and 12 feet high, weighing in at a whopping 11,000 - 15,000 pounds! That is around the same weight as four hippopotamuses.

- ✦ Complete a fossil scavenger hunt.
- ✦ Play a game of 'Capture the Eggs'

How?

Get into 2 teams. One team are scientists who have discovered a land where there are still living dinosaurs. They must find and gather as many eggs as they can without getting caught by the dinosaurs. The second team are the dinosaurs protecting their eggs. Based on the popular 'Capture the Flag'. This is fun for all ages and can be played in a small or large space but is best outside where there are plenty of hiding places!

- ✦ Put together a 'Guess the Fossil' quiz for your friends, family or group. Show pictures of fossils and the team members must guess what living thing it used to be.



Other

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- ✂ Read 'The Street Beneath My Feet' by Charlotte Gullian.
- ✂ Watch the 'Attenborough and the Sea Dragon' documentary that follows the discovery of the Ichthyosaur whose 200 million year old fossil remains were found on Britain's Jurassic coast.
- ✂ Stop by a local museum to find out more about fossils and even see some for yourself.
- ✂ Write your own story about an archaeologist or paleontologist day on a big dig adventure. What fossils do they discover and what does this mean they find out about life on Earth?
- ✂ Learn and sing along to the song 'Fossils' from the Helen Doron Song Club.
- ✂ Join/volunteer to take part in an archaeological dig.
- ✂ The largest fossil ever discovered was Patagotitan Mayorum in Argentina in 2012. It weighed 70 ton which is the equivalent to 10 elephants! What does this compare to?
- ✂ Research Mary Anning, the original fossil hunter.
- ✂ Go fossil hunting on the beach with your friends, family or group. Be sure to snap some pictures if you find any and tag us on social media!
- ✂ Take a trip to the library to find out more facts about archaeology, palaeontology and fossils.
- ✂ Host or attend a fossil themed party. Why not celebrate National Fossil Day on the 16th of October?
- ✂ Explore a local antique shop such as Lichfield Antiques Centre and see if you can find any fossils.
- ✂ Visit a local dinosaur attraction such as the dino dig at Landmark Forest Adventure Park in Scotland or Gulliver's Dinosaur and Farm Park in Milton Keynes.
- ✂ Fossils can tell us a lot about what life might have been like in the past and what species lived in a certain area, even if they have been extinct for many years before humans even existed. Complete some of your own research and see what you can find out about past life forms.

Adventure Complete?

Reward your young adventurers with their Big Dig Challenge badge to mark their achievements! Head to the website to bag yours, download certificates and discover even more adventures!



Create a Keepsake!

Experienced adventure? Made memories? Then it's time to create a keepsake! Our Pawprint Family camp blankets are the perfect place to sew your badges and look back on them for years to come.



Personalise it!

Got your camp blanket? Then it's time to make it yours! Our alphabet badges are big, bright and bold...the perfect addition to your camp blanket, hoodies, bags and more. What will you personalise first?



Even More Rewards!

We're all about added value here at Pawprint Family. In addition to the 1000s of free activity ideas and resources you'll find loyalty stickers in every order and you can claim Children's University learning hours too!



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