

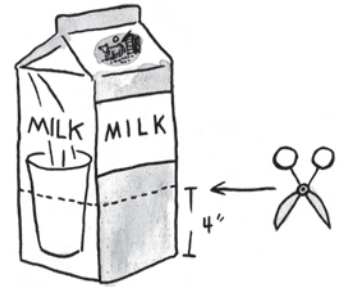
MAKE YOUR OWN FOSSIL

Note: NEVER pour plaster down the sink.

Try this activity to get an idea of how a fossil forms.

1

Cut off the top of the milk carton so what's left is about 4 inches tall. Spread petroleum jelly on the inside of the carton and on the object you will be making a fossil of.



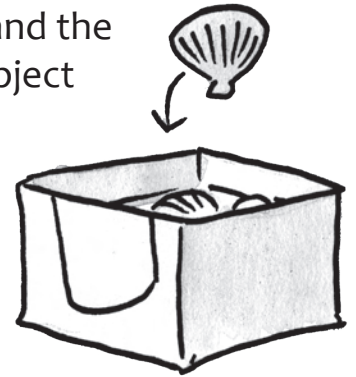
2

Pour about 2 cups plaster of Paris and 1 cup water into the ziplock bag. Seal the bag and squish the mixture until it is thick and smooth, but you can still pour it. Pour the mixture into the carton.

3

Press the object you want to make a fossil of into the plaster so that one-half is covered by plaster and the rest is exposed. You can use more than one object if they fit. Let it stay there until the plaster starts to become firm. Carefully remove the

object and let the plaster continue to dry, at least 30 minutes (this will vary depending on how humid the day is). You now have a plaster cast.



SUPPLIES:

- empty half-gallon cardboard milk carton
- scissors
- petroleum jelly
- water
- about 3 cups plaster of Paris, from the hardware or craft store
- large ziplock plastic bag
- seashell, plastic egg, leaf, or other distinctive shape
- food coloring or paprika
- fine sandpaper

