

ACADEMY VIRTUAL FESTIVAL PALEOPALOOZA

A Nine-Day Festival of Fossils

October 17–25

Dinosaur CSI

Every discovered fossil is a potential paleontological crime scene. Paleontologists must identify the fossil through examination of it and the area around it. This can give them critical information about how dinosaurs lived and died. Further, by examining the tracks of dinosaurs, paleontologists can reconstruct an event that happened a hundred million years ago! Let us try it for ourselves.

Know before you begin

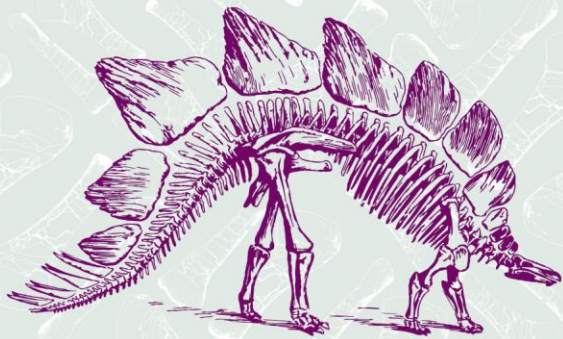
- This activity can be done inside or outside
- All supplies are easy to find
- Adult supervision is recommended
- Please choose a safe place to play

Materials

- Dinosaur models
- Playdoh, modeling clay or sand
- Wax paper, parchment paper or cling wrap (optional)
- A cookie sheet or other wide, flat pan

Instructions

- Examine the model trackways on the page below and ask yourself:
 - What kinds of dinosaurs made these tracks? (look at the feet of your dinosaur models for clues)
 - How many dinosaurs were there?
 - Do you think these tracks were all made at the same time? Why or why not?
 - What do you think happened and why?
- Now that you've tried doing some Dino CSI work, try creating some of your own trackways.
- On your pan, put a layer of cling wrap or one of the other suggested materials to cover the pan to help keep it clean. Then, spread out an even layer of playdoh, sand or clay.
- Using your dinosaur models, try recreating our trackways.
- See what you can learn from recreating them. Do you have better answers to the questions that we asked before?
- This is what paleontologists do with trackways they find. They want to uncover the truth of what happened, just like you did.

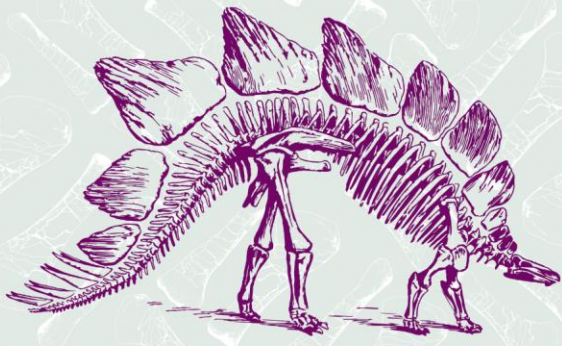


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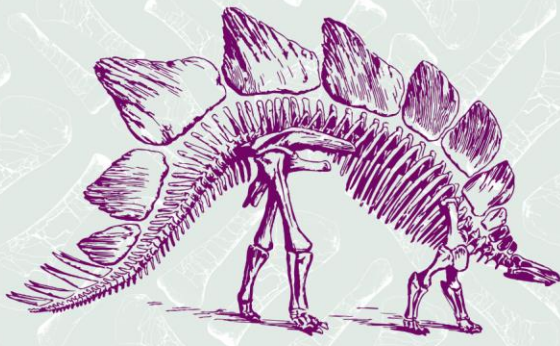


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