



Trace Fossil Medallion

A fossil is the remains or impression of a prehistoric organism preserved in petrified form or as a mold or cast in rock. Not every fossil is part of the animal itself. Trace fossils are anything left behind from an organism that is not part of the body. These fossils include any impression or other preserved sign of activity (for example, feeding, scratching, burrowing, walking or resting). Some popular examples of trace fossils are dinosaur scat.

Know before you begin

- Assorted shells or shark teeth
- Assorted hardy plants
- Modeling clay (Play-Doh, Model Magic)
- Cylindrical objects to punch hole in clay (pencil, toothpick)

Materials

- Popsicle sticks
- Small googly eyes
- Green pipe cleaners
- White foam

Instructions

1. Roll clay into a ping-pong-sized ball.
2. Flatten the ball until it's $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, then impress artifacts into the clay to create a "trace fossil."
3. Punch a hole in the top of the clay medallion using pencil point or toothpick.
4. Place in a safe place to dry and harden.
5. Let the medallion air-dry, then hang it on a ribbon, as a necklace, gift tag or ornament.

