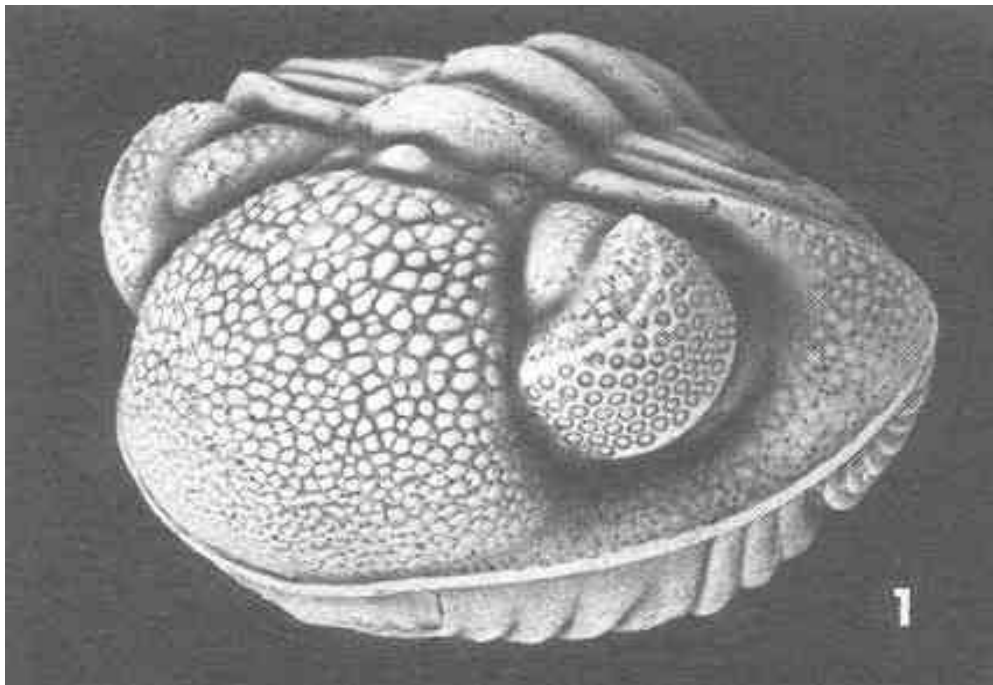


FOSSIL PARK PALEONTOLOGY UNIT

The following guided lessons will assist your students in preparing for a trip to Fossil Park! Lesson plans are designed with specific age groups in mind, but feel free to adapt them to the ability level of your group.



Fossil Park Lessons Ideas

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is a fossil?
2. Where do fossils come from?
3. Do fossils take a long time or a short time to make?
4. Are dinosaurs the only fossils we have?
5. What kind of animals live in the ocean?
(This question will lead into the marine fossils that we find at Fossil Park!)

Activities (K to 6th grade):

1. **QUICK AND EASY COLOR AND DISCUSS:** Have students color and discuss what they see in the “Devonian Seas of Ohio” coloring sheet provided by Fossil Park!

2. **USING A STUDY COLLECTION:** If you have taken classes to Fossil Park before, you have some examples of fossils to pass around for students to examine. If not, check the library for illustrations/pictures.

3. **DEVONIAN MURAL:** Have students assemble trilobites, corals, brachiopods, etc. Then create a decorative “Devonian Sea” bulletin board for the room. (See templates included in this package)

4. **FOSSIL IMPRESSIONS:** Have students take modeling clay/ silly putty and flatten it out on their desk. Then take either a penny or button and have them firmly press it into the clay. Carefully remove the object from the clay. Students should see the impression of the object that is left behind. This is similar to how impressions of fossils are created in the shale at Fossil Park.

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5. **FOSSIL NOTEBOOK (3rd to 6th grade):** Have the students create a fossil notebook. (See template included) Covers can be colored and important information recorded on the inside before the trip to Fossil Park. When students return from Fossil Park they can create a sketch of each fossil, identify it, and paste an identification label on the bottom of the page (older students can copy the name from the identification page included in this package.) Each fossil type should have its own page with sketch and label.

PROJECT OUTLINE:

Day 1.

1. Discuss fossil "Discussion questions" with class.
2. Have each student decorate and assemble a fossil notebook.
3. Have each student label a container to bring to the park. (egg carton, Ziploc bag, or milk jug)
4. Assemble egg carton on this day if you want to use them.

Day 2.

1. Go to Fossil Park to collect fossils.
2. Make certain that students bring their containers, sunscreen, water, and a hat.
3. Pass out identification sheets if you did not have students assemble egg carton.

Day 3.

1. Have a cleaning party. Clean the fossils with household vinegar in a plastic container. Have the students soak their fossils for fifteen minutes in the vinegar and scrub lightly with old toothbrushes. (If your vinegar seems to stop fizzing, remove some of the lime mud from the bottom of your container) Then rinse fossils thoroughly in cold water.
2. Have students begin to sort and identify the fossils that they collected at the park.
3. Student should then begin to make a sketch of each fossil in their fossil notebook. When one sketch is complete have the students place a label at the bottom of the page.