

Read. Try. Do.

Make Your Own Fossil!

Do you have a dino-loving kid at home? They'll love this fun activity that combines just the right amount of dirt, a bit of kitchen 'science,' and—best of all—homemade fossil eggs!

Ready to get started? You'll need:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup used coffee grounds, drained
- ½ cup salt
- ¼ cup sand or dirt
- ½ to ¾ c. water
- Sheet pan/cookie sheet
- A few plastic dinosaur toys (or other small, sturdy toy)



What to Do:

1. In a medium bowl, mix the flour, coffee grounds, salt, and sand together.
2. Stir in water, ¼ cup at a time, until a coarse 'dough' is formed and just holds together. If needed, add more water, but be careful that the mixture doesn't become too wet, or it won't hold its shape.
3. Pinch off a piece of dough about the size of a young child's fist. Squeeze into a ball, then flatten into an oval shape. Place a hard plastic toy on top, and form dough around it, covering with additional dough, as needed. Form your fossil into an oval/egg-shape.
4. Repeat Step 3 with remaining dough and additional toys.
5. To harden your fossils, do one of the following:
 - a. Leave them out to air dry for 3-4 days; or,
 - b. Place on a cookie sheet in an oven set to its lowest temperature, for 15-20 minutes.

Once the fossil eggs are hardened, you can have an excavation party! Take the kids outside and let them use small rocks or tools (with adult supervision, please!) to crack open their dino eggs. For even more fun, you can do a test run by yourself, and hide a few Dollar Store toys inside some fossils of your own—then let the kids chisel away to discover a fossilized treasure!

Makes: 4-6 fossil eggs, depending on size

Adapted from "How to Make Dinosaur Eggs" by *Emmymade in Japan* via YouTube