

45 min
Science
Workshop



Ages
3-8

Learn-Through-Play Workshop

This OKIDO downloadable workshop is designed for families and can be easily delivered in the home by YOU. It is designed in collaboration with the British Science Association and follows learning to facilitate Early Years and KS1 development using easy-to-find objects from around the home.

This 45 minute learn-through-play workshop includes:

- Watch an episode of Messy goes to OKIDO together
- Discuss the science with easy-to-follow pointers around the subject
- Complete a make-and-do science activity
- Reinforce the learning with a fun, follow-up worksheet



Theme - **Nature**
Subject - **Fossils and dinosaurs**

For lots more workshop activities subscribe to OKIDO Magazine at www.okido.com

Watch and learn together

Together with your child, watch this 10-minute episode of Messy goes to OKIDO - 'Fossil Puzzle'.

[Link to Fossil Puzzle episode](#)

In this episode, Messy wonders why he has never met a dinosaur before? So off he goes to OKIDO to see if he can get some help.

In OKIDO Messy and his friends head to the beach. While making sandcastles Messy digs up something he doesn't recognise. Zim, Zam and Zoom help him find out more about it and tell him that it is a **fossil**.

Talk about the science

Right after watching, ask your child some questions about what they've seen:

- What did Messy dig up?
- What did all the fossil pieces make when Zoe put them together?
- What does Lolly call her beach cafe?

Now talk to your child about what they've learned about fossils:

- What's a fossil?
- Where are fossils found?

If your child asks a question that you don't know the answer to - just investigate together to find out!



Don't worry - all the information you need to know is explained in the episode :)

New words: Fossil

Now make an archaeological dig

You will need:

- Pasta shapes
- Baking tray
- 2 cups each of - water, salt and used coffee grounds
- 4 cups flour

This activity takes some time to prepare so teach your child the **life skill** of patience, which will allow them to enjoy the fun parts all the more.

- Mix the flour, salt and coffee together in a mixing bowl.
- Slowly add the water and mix together until it looks like dirt!
- Put a thin layer in the baking tray.
- Now add your pasta in the shape of a dinosaur - you can use the helpful template on the next page.
- Cover with the rest of the dirt.
- Leave overnight to dry.

Now start excavating your dinosaur fossil. You can use brushes, spoons, skewers...any household items that could help!

Experimenting and data collecting

- Make a selection of different dinosaur shapes.
- Have your child use string to mark out a grid on the tray and log what they find. This is a technique that archaeologists use to make sure they are being thorough and careful with each part of the 'dig'.
- Photograph the dig as it's going along and then look back on the images with your child to see their progress.

Why not start an archaeology notebook? Have your child make a note of any interesting shells, rocks or fossils they find. Note where and when the object was found and what they think it is. This can turn a very usual walk to the park into a very unusual adventure.

You could make another dinosaur fossil and bury it in the garden or a flower pot without your child knowing... they will be delighted when they get to dig up a dinosaur fossil 'in the wild'!

It's best to not cook with the pasta after being played with like this but why not use it for another activity? You could paint it and turn it into jewelry or a wind chime to hang in your window?

Put your pasta shapes over this T-Rex skeleton template



Share your images with us at [#okidoworkshop](https://twitter.com/okidoworkshop)

Let's be mini archaeologists

Make a pasta skeleton, bury it, and then dig it back up!

You will need:



2 cups of used coffee grounds



4 cups of flour



2 cups of salt



2 cups of water

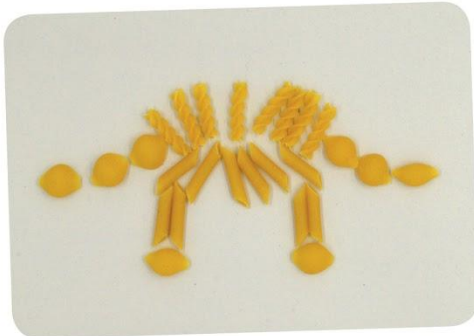


Baking tray



Pasta shapes

How to make your pasta dinosaur:

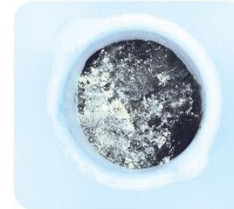


Use the T-Rex template from the other side of the page as a guide. Take your pasta shapes and lay them over the dinosaur skeleton. See our examples for more ideas.



Let's be mini archaeologists

How to make your 'dirt':



Mix the flour, coffee and salt together in a big mixing bowl.



Slowly add the water and mix it together. It will begin to look like dirt!



Put a thin layer in the bottom of your baking tray.



Press your pasta shapes into the dirt. Cover with the rest of the dirt.

Leave to dry overnight. You can also bake it in the oven at 100°C for 30 minutes.

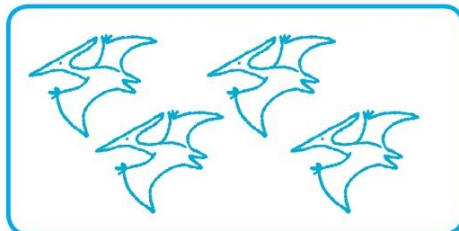
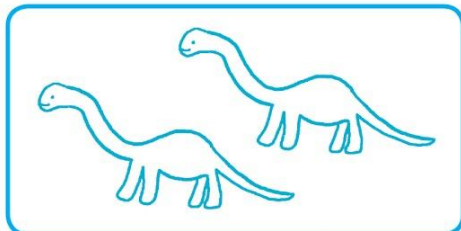
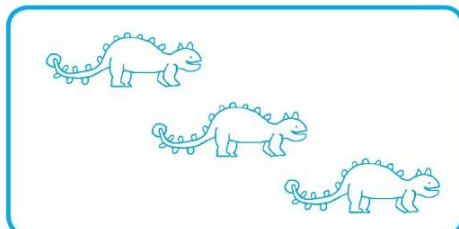
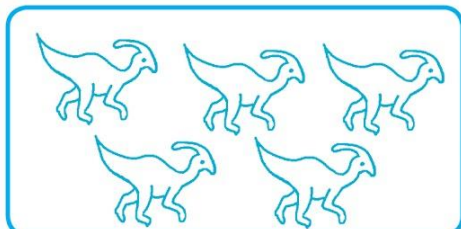
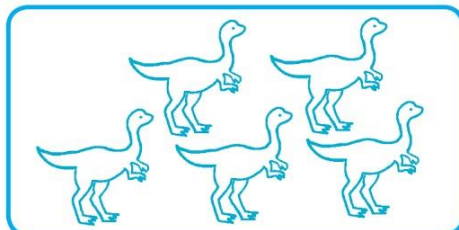
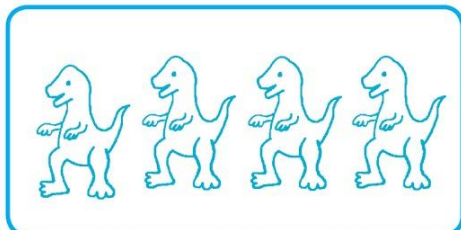
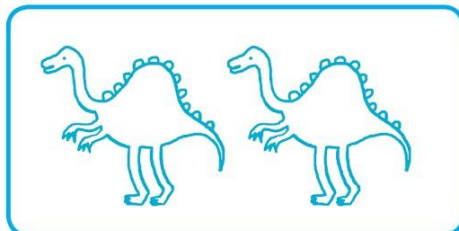
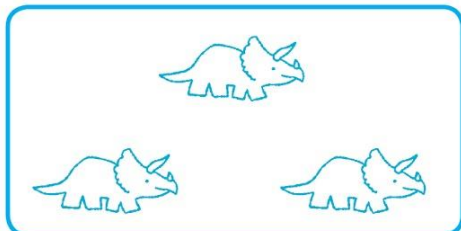
You can use forks and spoons to dig. Use a paintbrush to brush the dirt and reveal your pasta bones! Archaeologists use string to mark different sections so they can map where they find the bones.



Time to excavate!

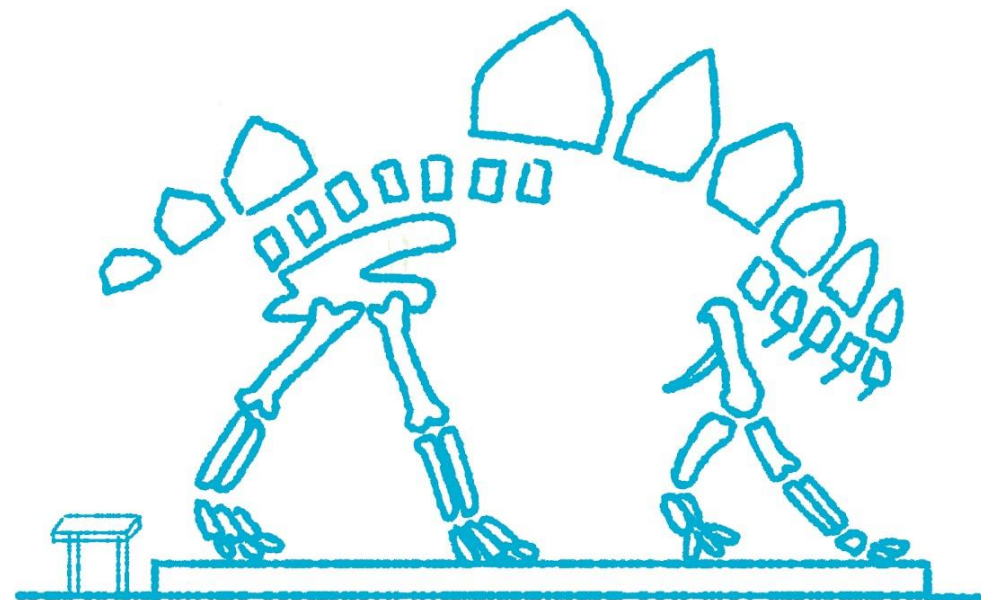
Counting dinosaurs

Match the boxes with the same number of dinosaurs by colouring them in the same colour.



Missing bones

This dinosaur fossil is on display in Okido Museum.
But some of its bones are missing. Draw them in!



Here are the missing bones:

