

PICK YOUR ACTIVITY

- Option A: Impression Fossil (clay + object)
- Option B: Mold and Cast Fossil (clay + object + plaster of Paris)

WHAT I USED

Suggested objects: a shell, a leaf, a small bone, a pinecone scale, a textured rock

My object was: _____

Does your object have hard parts or soft parts? _____

Think about a trilobite with its tough exoskeleton versus a jellyfish with nothing but soft tissue.
Which one would leave a clear impression? _____

DRAW WHAT HAPPENED

Draw your clay **BEFORE** pressing the object in.

Draw your **IMPRESSION** after removing the object.

IF YOU DID OPTION B

Draw your finished plaster cast:

The plaster filled in the _____ left by my object.

This is like how real cast fossils form when _____ fills in the space left by an organism.

I LEARNED THAT

Before the Cambrian Explosion, almost nothing fossilized because animals had no _____.

When Cambrian animals evolved hard parts like exoskeletons and shells, they became _____.

A fossil that shows the shape pressed into rock is called an _____ fossil.

A fossil made when minerals fill in that space is called a _____ fossil.

Most fossils are made of hard parts like _____ and _____ because soft parts usually _____.