Lesson Plans

Unit 3 Fossils Lesson 1 - 4 days

**Day 1** fossils intro. EQ: how do fossils teach us about the environment in ancient times. Watch exploring fossils video (16 minutes) this gives a brief overview of fossil hunting. Discus the video  
1. the fossil record (a description of the history of life on earth – proved by fossil finds)

2. The work of a Paleontologist 3. Tools of the trade: notebook, maps, brushes, hammers, picks, shovels

3. where fossils can be found (everywhere)

Be sure to discuss the idea that very few living things ever become fossils. It is very, very rare. If it was not rare we would be up to our chins in the fossils of old living things.

**Day 2 Explore PP slides 3 –10** discuss what fossils are – “any impression that is left by ancient life” bones, an entire body turned to stone, footprints turned to stone, the imprint of a shell or leaf when the mud turns to stone around it. Small bit of animals like shark teeth, and even fossilized poop. Anything that tells us about ancient life. Slide 10 – read pages 66 and 67

**Day 3** – slides 11 – 17 Fossils are found in many different places – Shells - in the middle of England, on top of mountains, ferns in Antarctica, Slide 17 Answer How do fossils teach us about the environment in ancient times?

**Day 4**  – Place students into groups - go to slide 18 and read the caption about a dinosaur find. Then ask students to go to lynncronin.weebly.com then drag down on the 3rd grade science tab to select unit 3 Fossils – click on the picture from slide 18 to explore the fossil and answer the questions on notes page 2. When they finish this, watch “fossil found in kitchen counter” and answer more questions.

**Unit 3 fossils Lesson 2 – 3 DAYS**

**Day 1** slides 22 to 27 read and discuss the sea creatures found on top of the rocky mountains. Watch video about the Green River sites. If time, discuss the idea that Green River formed after dinosaurs were killed by a meteor.

**Day 2** – discuss finds from Green River (why are there shells on the top of the Rocky’s) Explore how that could possibly be. Slides 28 – 30.

**Day 3** – finish notes section

**Unit 3 fossils Lesson 3 = 3 DAYS**

Day 1 Slides 1-6, discuss fossils in Antarctica. Read pages 70/71

Day 2 Slides 7 – 9 discuss fern fossils – figure out how that happened. Fill in first two note sections.

Day 3 – slides 10 – 15 – answer questions in notes – watch final videos.

Final section – read pages 74 and 75 -WE ARE BUILDING FOSSILS WITH CLAY – CHECK THIS OUT AHEAD OF TIME TO GET SUPPLIES READY.