



THE KEY TO FOSSILS

5th Grade

DESCRIPTION

After studying a huge variety of early life in the Fossil Gallery, students learn how to use a dichotomous key to classify and identify actual fossil specimens. They then get to experience a fossil dig keeping their three favorite specimens. Program will run for two hours.

30 MINUTES – GALLERY TIME

- Definition of a fossil.
- Explain how fossils are formed and are dated.
- Explain the different types of fossils.

30 MINUTES - LAB

- Define classification.
- Define a dichotomous key and how it is used.
- Students will then utilize a dichotomous key to classify several actual fossils.

30 MINUTES

- Fossil Dig and Careers in Paleontology information

30 MINUTES

- Store, Foucault Pendulum & Apatosaurus

TAKE HOME ITEMS

- Three genuine Fossils from the Fossil Dig