



# KEY TO FOSSILS

## 5th & 7th Grades and High School

### DESCRIPTION

What can we use to understand and classify life on Earth? Students will actively classify different organisms. They will also learn how to use a dichotomous key and use it to identify actual fossil specimens.

### FIELD TRIP

Program will run for 2 hours.

#### 30 MINUTES – GALLERY TIME

- Describe fossils and explain how fossils are formed and are dated
- Classify different types of fossils
- Hunt for clues to life in different times

#### 30 MINUTES

- Visit the Museum Store

#### 30 MINUTES - LAB

- Define classification
- Classify different forms of life
- Define a dichotomous key and how it is used
- Utilize a dichotomous key to classify genuine fossils

#### 30 MINUTES

- Fossil Dig

#### TAKE HOME ITEMS

- Keep 3 fossils excavated from the Fossil Dig

### VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

Program will run for approximately 1 hour.

- Definition of different types of fossils with fossil samples
- Classification Activity
- Why a dichotomous key is important
- Why was the Brontosaurus reclassified?
- Careers in Paleontology
- Q + A with a Tellus Educator

#### PRE + POST ACTIVITIES CURRICULUM PACKET

- Vocabulary Activity
- Pre-recorded Video
- Scavenger hunt (use with video)
- Dichotomous Key Activity (use with video)

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GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

S5L1a; SS1,7,11,12; SSS8,10; SS1,7,11,12; SSS8,10; S7L1a; S7L5c; SS1,7,11,12; SSS8,10; SB4; SS1,7,11,12; SSS8,10