

Praxis “Making Science Fun”

Dinosaur Bread

Using candy and bread to make model the effects of time and pressure.

Materials:

- White bread
- Whole wheat or multi-grain bread
- Small hard candy (similar size as the gummy bears)
- Brown bread
- Paper towel
- Two boards or card board
- Heavy books or bricks
- Squishy candy like gummy bears



Procedure: (Remember to be sure to have your parent’s permission and they have the time to watch and help you.)

- Put the board down first against the walls in the corner of a room (for support).
- Place a sheet of paper towel on the board and then one slice of bread.
- Put on the next slice of bread of a different type.
- Put a few of the hard and squishy candies on this slice.
- Continue to place slices of bread and candies on each layer.
- The final layer is a slice of bread with no candies. Place a sheet of paper towel and the board on top of this.
- Carefully stack the books on the board.
- Leave it overnight.
- Predict what the bread and candies will look like. Carefully remove the books and paper towel.
- Observe the effect that time and pressure has had on your candy animals.

What's happening?

You used bread, candies and a little pressure to mimic the effects of fossils hidden in sedimentary layers. The different kinds of bread represent the different types of sediment: fine clay mud, sand, and a sand-gravel mixture. The candies represent the dinosaurs. The soft parts of the animals, animals like the soft squishy gummy bears compressed more than the hard candies which represent the hard parts of animals like the bones, teeth and shells. See Science Experiments on Dinosaurs for Kids: http://www.ehow.com/info_8098260_science-experiments-dinosaurs-kids.html#ixzz1meva1cW0

Extension:

Visit the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller (<http://www.tyrrellmuseum.com/>) or just an hour’s drive away is Dinosaur Provincial Park, a World Heritage Site (<http://tpr.alberta.ca/parks/dinosaur/index.aspx>), where many of the major Alberta fossil finds originated.

This activity is based on our “Digging 4 Dinosaurs” Learning Kit. Our teaching kits (described on our website) are loaned out FREE to provide classroom teachers and parents of home schooled children as an opportunity to explore Science in interesting ways. Please consider volunteering as one of our classroom speakers or allow your business as a field trip location.

Our next major event that Praxis is involved with is the Kiwanis Regional South East Alberta Science Fair on March 24th. For more information check out our Praxis website and their website at: <http://www.seab-sciencefair.com/>

Lorne Cooper, Regional Executive Director

PRAXIS, “Making Science Fun”. Contact Praxis at praxis@praxismh.ca, www.praxismh.ca, Tweet or follow us @PraxisMedHat, or friend us on Facebook. Address: c/o 200 7th Street S.W., Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 4K1 Phone: 403-527-5365, Fax: 403-527-6570.