

Dinosaur Detectives EYFS/KS1

During this fun-filled two hour workshop children will become 'detectives', handling original and replica fossils to find the evidence they need to answer some big questions. Did dinosaurs exist and how do we know if there aren't any dinosaurs around today? Children will be introduced to the fossilisation process via an ammonite role-play before turning their attention to dinosaur fossils. We explain the work of a palaeontologist before donning hats, singing a song and heading off on a dinosaur hunt around the museum. On the hunt we find out how big the dinosaurs were, what they ate, how they walked and whether they really laid eggs? We meet Shropshire's own dinosaur ancestor the Rhyncosaur before heading back to the education room where children take part in a fossil dig and paint a plaster cast fossil to take back to school.

National Curriculum Links

EYFS

- **Understanding the world:** children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.
- **Expressive arts and design** this workshop involves a creative activity and enables children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities.
- **Communication and language development.** This workshop gives children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Science KS1

- collecting evidence by making observations and measurements;
- considering evidence and evaluating
- making simple comparisons.

History KS1

- placing events and objects in chronological order
- finding out about the past from a range of sources of information.

The session aims to:

The workshop will introduce children to:

- dinosaurs
- palaeontology and fossils
- basic, scientific methodologies
- extinction

By the end of the session, the children should be able to:

- explain how we can tell what dinosaurs looked like
- Understand how fossils are formed
- Understand that some dinosaurs were big and some were small.
- Understand that dinosaurs laid eggs
- Understand that some dinosaurs were meat eaters and some plant eaters

- Understand the difference between predators and prey

An overview of the session at Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery

- 10min Arrive, coats, bags, toilets, safety briefing.
- 35 mins – Introduction, fossil handling and fossil role-play. How do we find out about Dinosaurs if they are all extinct? What is a Palaeontologist?
- (optional time for snack before Dinosaur Hunt)
- 45 mins – Dinosaur Hunt around museum looking at dinosaur size, teeth, movement, defence and reproduction
- 30 mins - Fossil dig and paint a fossil