

# Palaeontology Puzzles



## Piecing together the puzzles of the past

**KLAs:**  
Science, Creative Arts

**LESSON TOPIC:**  
Palaeontology

**YEAR LEVEL:** K-6

**DURATION OF ACTIVITY:** 45 minutes

Bones, fossils and artefacts buried in our earth tell us stories of the past. They provide us with puzzles to solve and make sense of history, telling us a lot about biology, art, geology, evolution and much more. Palaeontology is the study of the history of life on Earth, based on fossils. We can study these fossils to develop an understanding of different elements of both extinct and extant organisms. In enhancing our knowledge of the history of life on Earth, palaeontology betters our understanding of the world around us, including the principles that govern change.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

- Appreciate the process of palaeontological research, and what fossils can tell us about the past and the future
- Appreciate the importance of preserving specimens of extant and extinct organisms for a greater understanding of our natural world
- Understand the process of fossilisation and what is meant by a 'fossil'
- Acknowledge the process of using fragments of information and gathering evidence to build knowledge
- Identify anatomical features of various animals from their skeletons

### EXPLORATORY AND PLAY-BASED COMPONENTS

In this activity students search for bones from an unknown animal hidden in kinetic sand, and find out which part of the body, and which animal they belong to. They can then find objects in their own schoolyard to create their own fossil imprints and learn just how delicate a job it is unearthing these fascinating snapshots of the past.