



# 101

## SIMPLE SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

with

**ATOMS**  
EDUCATION



## EDIBLE FOSSILS

### You will need:

- Milk chocolate bar
- 2 small cupcake cases
- 2 bay leaves
- Microwaveable bowl
- Spoon

### KEY FACTS:

**Fossils** are the preserved remains or traces of a dead **organism**.

**Fossilisation** is the process of fossils being created. It is quite rare for fossils to form when a living organism dies and it needs some special conditions to happen.

When animals die the soft parts of their bodies **decompose** leaving only the harder parts like their **skeletons**.

Over time this becomes covered by small pieces of rock called **sediment**. This builds up in layers and hardens around the skeleton into rock.

As water seeps through the rock it slowly **dissolves** the skeleton leaving **minerals** from the water behind.

This leaves behind a rock **replica** of the skeleton which we call a fossil.

As well as animals and plants lots of other things can be fossilised including footprints, eggs and even poo. Fossilised poo even has a special name, **coprolite**.

**ACTIVITY TIME: 1 HOUR**

## METHOD

1. Break the chocolate into squares.
2. Place half of the chocolate squares into a microwaveable bowl.
3. With grown up help melt the chocolate in the microwave. Melt in short ten second bursts, stirring in between until the chocolate is melted is best to make sure you don't burn the chocolate.
4. Once melted carefully share the melted chocolate between the two cupcake cases. Make sure you only fill them halfway.
5. Place a bay leaf on top of the melted chocolate in each case. Press it down carefully so it doesn't sink. Leave these to set whilst you clean your spoon and bowl.
6. Once the chocolate has set melt the remaining chocolate (as above) and pour this over top of the bay leaf filling the cupcake cases to the top and leave to set again.
7. Once the chocolate has set firmly (in the fridge is best) you can use your spoon to carefully try to split the chocolate rock, remove the bay leaf and observe your fossil.
8. Enjoy eating your fossil but before you do if you want to send us a picture of it now is the time. Send any images to us on our facebook page or to [atomsvonni@gmail.com](mailto:atomsvonni@gmail.com)

### KEY VOCABULARY:

|                  |                      |                  |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>fossil</b>    | <b>fossilisation</b> | <b>decompose</b> |
| <b>sediment</b>  | <b>dissolves</b>     | <b>minerals</b>  |
| <b>replica</b>   | <b>coprolite</b>     | <b>organism</b>  |
| <b>skeletons</b> |                      |                  |