Introduction

Dinos & Fossils is about fossils of animals that lived long ago. The fossils have captured the imagination of people of all ages. **Dinosaur discoveries** began long ago. The ancient Chinese found dinosaur bones long before the discoveries in England led to the scientific study of these animals.

The scientific study of dinosaurs began in England in the 1800's with the discovery of a *Megalosaurus* by William Buckland. Richard Owen coined the term *Dinosaur* after he studied the bones and thought they resembled reptiles or lizards. Dinosaur means terrible lizard, the Greek root word *deinos* means terrible and *sauros* means lizard or reptile.

The first dinosaur bones described scientifically in North America were found in Montana. The dinosaurs were named *Deinodon,* "terrible tooth," and *Trachodon* "rough tooth." Since then people have continued to collect evidence of dinosaurs all over the planet including Antarctica, Alaska and Australia.

Old Chinese Proverb

I hear, and I forget
I see, and I remember
I do, and I understand

Each activity contains the following:

- The **Introduction** is a brief statement about the activity and other information you might like to know before you start the activity.
- **Science behind the activity** at the end of the activity. This information explains science principles or current science research related to the activity that you might find interesting.
- **Pictures** are designed to increase your understanding of how to do the activity before you start.
- **Materials** in each activity are often found around the home. Often recycled materials can be used for the activities also.
- **Directions** are written in a clear easy-to-understand format.
- **More science activity ideas** provides other ideas that you might like to try after doing the activity.
- **Activity Notes** is a place where you can write your predictions, general notes and any other thing you want to remember about the activity.

Footprints in the Rock

Activity 1

Introduction

Dinosaurs that walked along wet banks or a river or along sandy beaches have been preserved and turned to stone. In this activity you will design the footprint of a dinosaur using a potato and then make impressions of the foot in soft dough.

Footprints in soft dough

Materials

- Flour
- Salt
- Water
- Mixing bowl
- Tin foil
- Cookie pan
- Potato
- Ink pen
- Knife

Directions

1. Mix together 2 cups of flour with 1 cup of salt in a mixing bowl.

Table of Contents