



BUDDY BISON'S FROZEN FOSSIL DIG

Did you know that several national parks are famous fossil sites? Badlands National Park (SD) and John Day Fossil Beds National Monument (OR) are two of many. Scientists from all over visit these parks to learn about prehistoric life. Experience what it's like to discover a fossil with Buddy Bison's help.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place one dinosaur toy or salt dough fossil in each balloon.
2. Fill the balloons with water so that they are the size of a large oval. Tie the ends of the balloons.
3. Place balloons in the freezer.
4. Once the fossils are frozen, remove them from the balloons using scissors.
5. Arrange your fossils in a large container.
6. Experiment with different "excavation" techniques:
 - Sprinkle salt on fossils to lower the ice's melting point, making the ice melt faster.
 - Use safe kitchen utensils to crack and scrape the ice. Adult supervision is required.
 - Allow the fossils to melt. See how long it takes.

SUPPLIES

- Balloons
- Small plastic dinosaur toys and/or salt dough fossils
- Scissors
- Large plastic container
- Salt
- Kitchen utensils to use as "excavation tools"

WANT TO MAKE YOUR OWN FOSSIL? TRY THIS SALT DOUGH RECIPE

- 2 cups of flour
- 1 cup of salt
- 1/2 cup of warm water

Mix the ingredients together and shape them into "bones." Place the dough on a baking sheet and bake at 250 degrees for 1 1/2 hours (bake time varies).

READY FOR MORE? TRY THIS: You can also create a dry dig by burying your "fossils" in sand. Use kitchen utensils and paintbrushes to excavate. You can even add stones and small shells to your dig site!

