| **""** | **HANDS-ON LAB** Model Fossil Formation |
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You will model the process of fossil formation and make your own cast fossil. You will exchange fossils with another group and make inferences about the items that made the other group’s fossil.

## Materials

* modeling clay
* various items to form cast fossils
* white glue

   

## Procedure and Analysis

**STEP** **1** Select two or more items to make a cast fossil. You will do 3

**STEP 2** Press the clay to form a flat, thick surface. Make it thick enough so that you can push your chosen items into it.

**Draw/sketch your original objects (put the name in the top row and drawing in second) (15)**

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**STEP 3** Arrange the items on the clay. Then press them into the clay to make a detailed impression. What do the modeling clay and the small objects represent in this model of a fossilization process? (4)

| The modelling clay represents |
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| The small objects represent |

**STEP 4** Carefully remove the items from the clay. Try not to disturb the impressions. The clay impression forms a mold.

**Draw/sketch the impressions: (15)**

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**STEP 5** Fill the mold with white glue and let it dry.

**STEP 6** When the glue has dried, peel it back. The dried glue shape is a cast of your items.

**Draw/sketch your casts objects:**

**(15)**

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**Please use complete and detailed answers. Rephrase the question as a claim. Support with evidence and reasoning. You may type your answers. 5 points each**

**STEP 7** Exchange cast fossils with another group. Make inferences about the items used to make their cast fossils, and explain your reasoning. (What were the original objects and why?)

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**STEP 8** Confirm what items were used to make the trace fossils that you analyzed. Record here.

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**STEP 9** What were you able to infer from the cast fossil you analyzed? Did your inferences correctly reflect the original items that made the fossil?

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**STEP 10** What about the “fossilization process” made it difficult to accurately or completely identify the original item?

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