

Directions for Making Impression Fossils

Use these directions to make an impression fossil of a plant.

Materials:

Clay or salt dough (2 cups flour; 1 cup salt; 1 cup water)
Plant (a fern or a leaf works well)
Wax paper
Brown/black paint (if desired)

Procedure:

1. If using salty dough, mix the salt, flour, and water until a soft dough forms.
2. Turn this dough (or clay) out onto a large sheet of wax paper and knead it until smooth.
3. Break off a piece large enough for the imprint you want to make, roll it into a ball, and use the heel of your hand to flatten it out.
4. Press the plant you wish to make a fossil imprint of firmly into the dough.
Carefully remove the object to leave the print behind.
5. Let the clay or dough dry overnight.
6. If desired, use a small amount of paint to represent the dark layer left by the decaying plant.

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