Salt Dough Bones and Fossils

T-Rexes and tiaras... what exactly do those two things have to do with each other? Well, absolutely nothing! Formally known as *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, the word tyrannosaurus means “tyrant lizard” and rex comes from the Greek word meaning “king.” So, deemed “King of the Dinosaurs”, we like to imagine that all T-Rexes wore some type of crown, such as a tiara. This week we are traveling back 66 million years to the land of dinosaurs. Although we weren’t living that long ago, we have a pretty good idea of what dinosaurs looked like based on bones and fossils. Today you’ll be creating some bones and fossils of your own!

Below you will see a list of suggested materials, but please get creative and use what you have on hand at home! There is no single way to do this craft!

**Materials:**
- 1 ¼ cups salt
- 5 cups All-Purpose Flour
- 2 cups of water
- Large mixing bowl
- Mixing spoon
- Baking sheet or tray
- Small toys and figurines (optional)
- Parchment or wax paper (optional)
- Oven for baking*

*adult supervision advised

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Let’s get **STARTED!**

**Step 1**
Add the **salt** and **flour** to your bowl and give it a good stir.

**Step 2**
Add the **water** and start by using a spoon to mix, then **switch** to your hands to work out any lumps. **Mix and knead** the dough thoroughly until there are no more lumps.

**Step 3**
When the dough is ready, it will look and feel like bread dough – **but don’t eat it!** If your dough is **too sticky,** try adding a little **more flour.** If your dough is **too crumbly,** add a little more water.

**Step 4**
To make **FOSSILS:** pinch and roll out some balls of dough. **Flatten** the dough ball with the palm of your hand and use **small toys and items** to press into the dough. Remember to press **lightly!** Take the item out of the dough and check out your **imprint.** To make **BONES:** pinch and roll out various size balls of dough. Shape them how you would like them. You can make a variety of **different bones** or try making **matching bones** that make a **dinosaur** when put together! If dinosaur bones aren’t your thing, you can create anything you want to out of the dough!

**Step 5**
Leave your **bones, fossils,** and **other creations** on a lined baking sheet to dry. You can do this two different ways. **Option 1:** Bake the salt dough at **350 degrees for 45 minutes to an hour** (time will vary based on the **size** of the salt dough shapes so be sure to keep an eye on them). If using the oven, **please ask for assistance from an adult!** Make sure fossils are completely cool before handling them. **Option 2:** Leave your salt dough creations on a baking sheet and **leave out to dry for a few days.** You can also set them out in the hot summer sun to **speed up** the drying process!

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All finished? We want to see it! Share your artwork with us @victoryjunction or by using the hashtag #VJatHome