

Fossil Finders

Grade: 3rd

Explore fossils large and small and discover their power to tell us about the life of the past and the environment in which the animals existed. Students will also learn about A *T. rex* Named Sue and the many things she taught scientists about her world.

Nevada Academic Content Standards in Science (NGSS): 3-LS4-1.

Common Core: SL.5.1

During the Discovery Lab students will be expected to:

- Sit in groups of 4 and work cooperatively with others at the table.
- Students should be prepared to give their full attention to the Lab instructors when given the quiet signal.
- Follow the hands-on procedures just as the Lab teacher or assistant explains them and handle materials and equipment carefully.

It is important that teachers and chaperones:

- Help focus the students' attention.
- Assist students with lab activities through questioning allowing the student to do the actual data collection and decision making. For example a parent might ask, "What features of this fossil give you clues about where it once lived?"
- Engage students at a higher level by asking open-ended questions throughout the class. For example: why did you choose _____?
- Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices during the class.

Literary connection:

To get students excited about the upcoming Discovery Lab we suggest reading the following story with your students: "Tyrannosaurus rex vs. Edna – The Very First Chicken" by Douglas Rees. In this book tyrannosaurus Rex wants breakfast. He stomps and he roars and he gnashes his teeth and he scares all the other dinosaurs right out of the forest. Only Edna, the very first chicken, is unafraid. She won't let that bully *T. rex* push her around! But will Edna's mighty beak and terrible flapping wings be a match for *T. rex*'s mighty claws and terrible jaws?

