

# Florida Fossils Outreach

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## Problem:

- 🦕 Educators do not have access to fossil material
- 🦕 Educators lack knowledge about fossils
- 🦕 Educators lack passion about fossils (to excite students)



## Materials and methods

🦕 Use avocational paleontologists and fossil club members as adjunct educators.

🦕 Get Florida fossils and the amateurs' passion for paleontology into multiple learning environments.

🦕 Connect students to "Fossil Hunters" and inspire a desire to learn more.

🦕 Use E-5 principles and the framework of unschooling to teach about Florida fossils.

🦕 Use real Florida Fossils to engage students and inspire exploration, curiosity and passion about Florida paleontology.

🦕 Fossil club members lecture to describe and identify fossils. Through their passion about fossils they will easily illustrate the importance of paleontology in Florida.

🦕 Encourage students to work on their own using field notebooks, workbooks and worksheets giving students the opportunity to direct their learning.

🦕 Seeing adults that are passionate about paleontology and who learn new things continuously will encourage making learning a lifelong passion

🦕 Supply educators with fossil kits and reproducible materials to use in further exploration and activities. Encourage collaboration and sharing with educators.

🦕 Work on their own using field notebooks, workbooks and worksheets giving students the opportunity to direct their learning.

🦕 Encourages making learning a lifelong passion



## Results

### Engage:

🦕 Use real Florida Fossil specimens  
Large fossils on display for grabbing their attention

### Explore

🦕 Touch tables and fossil kits for small groups of students  
Sturdy fossils: students touch and handle; increases curiosity & encourages questioning

### Explain

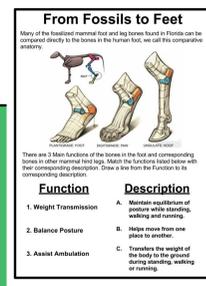
🦕 Use guided discussions about the fossils to teach students about: Fossilization, Paleontology, Field techniques, Equipment, Identification, Anatomy, physiology, preservation techniques and more  
🦕 Emphasize scientific techniques and the importance of documentation in all disciplines of science  
🦕 Emphasize the need to integrate technology and sharing: Across learning disciplines, among professionals and amateurs, to keep learning and keep sharing.

### Elaborate

🦕 Q & A Sessions with students  
🦕 Field notebook exercises using real fossils and real documentation techniques  
🦕 worksheets using real fossils that bridge multiple learning disciplines  
🦕 Activities in discovering field techniques

### Evaluate

🦕 Leave teachers with reproducible worksheets/booklets that use fossils to integrate multiple subjects: Writing, math, physics, logic, chemistry, research skills, and media, etc.  
🦕 Leave teachers with several Florida fossil kits for repeated use..



## Conclusions

It would benefit the field of paleontology to develop a program to utilize fossil club members and other avocational paleontologists as guest educators in the K-12 schools, Homeschool groups and in unschooling homes to bring Florida Fossils and the excitement and passion for Paleontology to children and young adults.

Getting fossils in the hands of educators to use in their classrooms on a regular basis will foster the love of Florida Fossils in the generations to come.

Leaving worksheets and fossil activities in the hands of educators will give them the tools necessary to continue fostering the love of paleontology and Florida Fossils long after our Florida fossil club guests are gone.



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## Photo Credits

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