

Fossil Excavation

While studying dinosaurs, students explored fossils and skeletal remains of dinosaurs through excavation activities. Students were challenged to first find the bones in the dirt and clay, carefully extract them using hammers and chisels, then try to piece the bones and fragments together to make a dinosaur. Teachers supervised the use of tools and encouraged students to draw upon previous knowledge of dinosaurs and use media available to put the skeleton together. 4-15



In the afternoon, students practiced their excavation skills at an excavation table. Here they learned how to use tools for excavation, clean and identify the bones they dug out, and make a whole skeleton using the bones pieces.



As a large scale group project, the afternoon class put their new found paleontologist skills to use in an outdoor excavation site. Using shovels, brushes, and hand rakes students searched the playground for buried bones. Working together the class found eleven bones which were cleaned and organized into a full Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton.

