Lesson Plans

museum
National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann
Natural History

Title of the lesson	**Fossil Fun Workshop**	
Duration	60 mins	
List of resources supplied by NMI	Fossils- ammonites, trilobites, shrimp, urchins, pine cone and miscellaneous trace fossils, replica sabre tooth cat skull, meteorites Plastic models of ammonites and trilobites Biological handling material- shrimp, urchins, pine cones	
Aims	Learn the how a fossil is formed. Learn about how species develop and evolve over time. Discuss why it species become extinct and the causes of Mass Extinctions.	
Keywords	Fossil, extinction, stages of extinction, endangerment, mass extinction, palaeontology, petrifaction, Ice Age, Jurassic, Climate Change, species, habitat, ecosystem, marine, coral, ammonites, trilobites, trace fossil, evolution, adaptation.	
List of objectives	***Behavioural objectives***	***Knowledge objectives***
	Recognise a fossil in a rock Recognise common fossils- coral, ammonites, trilobites	Know how fossils are formed Know the different geological ages What fossils are found in Ireland Know what causes an extinction event Know current theories for the extinction of the dinosaurs
Instructional input	Workshop: ***What is a Fossil?*** How and why fossils are formed How do we tell the age of a fossil Different types of fossils- bone, shell, trace fossils What fossils tell us about the history of the earth ***Types of Irish Fossils*** Ireland in the Jurassic- marine Fossils (Coral, ammonites, trilobites) Myths surrounding fossils ***Mass Extinctions*** What are they and what causes them e.g. Climate Change The extinction of the dinosaurs	

Independent practice	Exercise: ***Investigating Fossils*** Looking at different fossils and relating them to their modern equivalents- fossil urchins, shrimp and pine cones.

Curriculum ties:

Subject	**Strand**	**Strand Unit**
Science	Investigating and experimenting	Collect information and data from a variety of sources
	Living things	Myself, Plants & Animals (Infants to 2nd class) Human life, Plant and animal life (3rd to 6th class)
	Environmental awareness and care	Environmental awareness Science and the environment Caring for the environment
Geography	Skills and concepts development	Skills and concepts development
	Using pictures, maps and models (practical element)	Using pictures, maps and models (practical element)
	Natural environments	Natural environments
History	Skills and concepts development	Skills and concepts development
	Working as an historian Time and chronology Using evidence	Working as an historian Time and chronology Using evidence
SPHE	Myself	Making decisions

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