

Target Standard(s):

9.8.2 Investigate and describe how biological evolution provides a scientific explanation for the differences and many similarities between species.

9.12.2 Explain the fossil record of ancient life forms by applying the idea of natural selection and its evolutionary consequences.

9.8.3 Investigate and describe how biological adaptations include changes that enhance survival and reproductive success in a particular environment.

I can collaborate with my peers to make sense of a fossil's history.

Grade Band	Middle School (6-8)
Theme	Fossil Stories
Description	Explore animal the animal hereditary traits.
Activity Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Set of fossil pictures- Poster board- Crayons/markers/colored pencils
Activity Setup	<p>In a visible area post these questions for students. (PPT is available for download here).</p> <p>Ask students to work with a partner or in small groups.</p> <p>Distribute a poster board and crayons/markers/colored pencils to each group.</p> <p>Provide students with your choice of amount in fossil pictures. Do not tell students which animal the fossil belongs to. Let them figure it out!</p> <p>Explain: Paleontologists find and examine fossils such as chunks of bone, whole skeletons, and teeth. You are going to be paleontologists. You are going to use your fossil to create a story about the animal. You are going to work together with your classmates to draw a picture of what you think it looked like while it was live. Use the</p>

	<p><u>FACTORS TO CONSIDER</u> to guide your collaboration.</p>
<p>Exploration</p>	<p>Students will work in designated areas to create their fossil stories using the <u>Exploration guide and FACTS TO CONSIDER</u> to discuss and respond.</p> <p>once students have completed this activity they will choose a facilitator from their group to share their responses and poster board.</p> <p>Explain: Choose one person to be lead paleontologist. The chosen student will present their group's response to the questions asked in the <u>Exploration guide</u>.</p> <p>After students share their picture, show them how paleontologists have depicted their animal.</p> <p>Discuss: How does their animal compare to other students' responses?</p>
<p>Art Connection</p>	<p>To extend the lesson, students will collaborate to use the rest of the space on their poster to depict the type of environment that would be best for their animal to live within. Students will discuss how they made their choice of habitat.</p>
<p>Publish Your Work</p>	<p>Email a picture of your creation and observation notes to <u>communityrelations@lvnhm.org</u></p>