

Who Walked Here?

If you only have 20 minutes, or want to do a more informal lesson, here are investigation questions for each of the four activity boxes. (For activities with two questions, do either one or both!) These questions are designed to promote close observation and spark curiosity.



Investigation Question #1: What can scientists learn from fossil footprints?

This activity box includes 12 dinosaur fossil footprints. Pass them out so that groups of 2–3 students each have a fossil to investigate. Ask them what information they think scientists can learn from just looking at and touching the fossil.

Answers might include: The shape of its foot. How many toes it had. What kind of dinosaur left the footprint. How large or heavy it might have been.

Investigation Question #2: What can you learn from a trackway versus a single footprint?

Have students compare their single footprint fossil with the trackway fossil. Ask them what additional information scientists might glean from a trackway that they can't with the single footprint.

Answers might include: The stride length of the animal who made the trackway. Whether it walked on two feet or four feet. Which direction it was going. Whether it was walking or running.