

QUESTSPROUT PRESENTS

DINO DIG

Backyard Fossil Quest



A print-and-play adventure for little explorers



AGES 5-7 • PRINT & PLAY

Small adventures. Big memories.

Welcome, grown-up explorer!

Everything you need for an easy backyard quest.



Your mission, should you choose it

Set out the clues, then hand your child this pack and a pencil. They will hunt, sketch, solve, and earn a certificate—no special dinosaur knowledge needed.

Suggested time: 35-60 minutes • Grown-up help: light setup + reading support

Gather these simple supplies



Pencil or crayon

for drawing and puzzles



Small basket or bag

for collecting clues



6 nature-safe finds

see the hunt lists



Optional: magnifier

for extra detective fun

A quick grown-up note

Choose a safe outdoor space or play indoors with items you hide yourself. Skip anything sharp, fragile, or too small to handle safely. Your child can point, sketch, or tell you their answers when writing feels tricky.

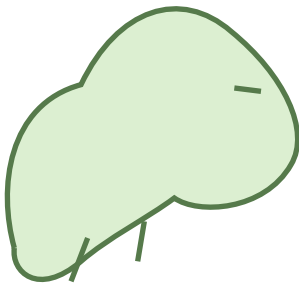
KEEP IT KIND TO NATURE

A message from Dr. Fern

Read this aloud, then begin your expedition.



Dear fossil finder,



A tiny dino named Pebble has scattered clues across your backyard! Every nature find, track, and puzzle will help us rebuild Pebble's fossil story. Put on your explorer eyes, move gently, and collect only things that are already on the ground.

— Dr. Fern, Chief Backyard Paleontologist

Before you start

1

Write your name below.

2

Choose a grown-up expedition guide.

3

Find the first clue on page 4!

Explorer name: _____

Expedition guide: _____



Backyard fossil hunt • 1

Check each clue when you spot it.



Bring a grown-up along. Look, point, or collect only what is safe and already loose.



A fallen leaf

Look under a tree or shrub.



A small stick

Choose one already on the ground.



A smooth pebble

Can you find one that feels round?



A patch of grass

Look closely—what colors do you see?

My favorite clue from this hunt was...



Backyard fossil hunt • 2

Keep your explorer eyes open for these tiny treasures.



Bring a grown-up along. Look, point, or collect only what is safe and already loose.



A feather

Only if it is already on the ground.



A seed or seed pod

Look near a plant or sidewalk.



A shadow shape

Trace it with your finger—not a crayon.



A safe hiding spot

Where could a tiny dino rest?

If Pebble hid here, I think they would choose...



Fossil finder field notes

Scientists sketch clues before they decide what they mean.



Draw your coolest backyard clue

Sketch it here

My clue is a...

It feels...

smooth / bumpy / soft / hard

I think it could tell us...

Tiny scientist tip

Real paleontologists make careful observations. There is no wrong sketch—your job is to notice details!



Match the fossil clues

Draw a line from each clue to its best match.



FOSSIL CLUE



A pointy tooth



A three-toed track



A bumpy egg



A long tail print



WHAT IT TELLS US



A nest clue



A hungry dinosaur



A walking dinosaur

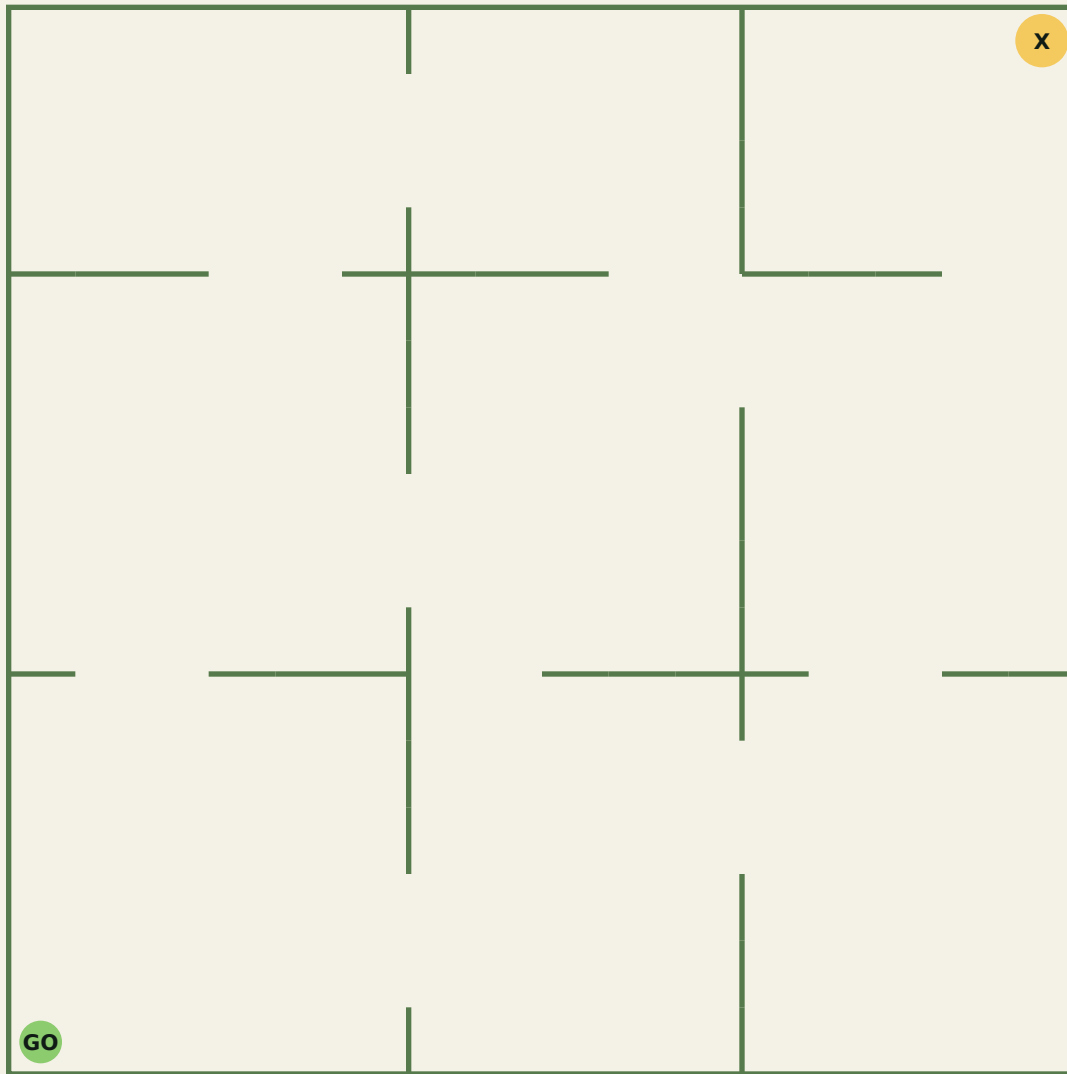


A swishing dinosaur

Hint: Think about what each clue shows a dinosaur doing.

Follow the track trail

Help Pebble reach the fossil without bumping into the rocks.



Start at GO. Trace a path to the golden fossil (X).

Dino word search

Find the six



F	O	S	S	I	L	Q	Z	D
X	B	R	U	S	H	H	A	T
T	R	A	C	K	M	O	S	S
L	E	A	F	Q	E	G	G	S
D	I	G	S	T	O	N	E	P
C	L	U	E	F	E	R	N	N
R	O	A	R	T	H	Y	M	E
S	K	Y	B	O	N	E	Z	Z
N	E	S	T	P	O	N	D	Y

☐ FOSSIL

☐ BRUSH

☐ TRACK

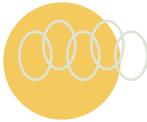
☐ LEAF

☐ STONE

☐ BONE

Dino dig math

Count the fossils, then write the answer in each circle.



$$2 \text{ eggs} + 3 \text{ eggs} =$$



answer



$$6 \text{ tracks} - 2 \text{ tracks} =$$



answer



$$4 \text{ leaves} + 1 \text{ leaf} =$$



answer



$$7 \text{ rocks} - 3 \text{ rocks} =$$



answer

Bonus thought

If Pebble finds 1 more fossil, which question's answer would become 6?

Crack Dr. Fern's code

Use the picture key to uncover Pebble's secret message.



Write the secret word on the fossil tablet.

PEBBLE'S SECRET WORD

What does it mean to PLAY like an explorer?

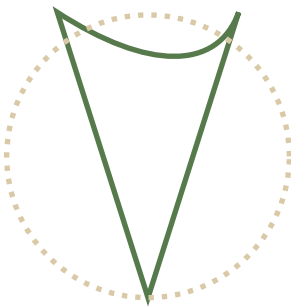
Make a fossil rubbing

Place this page over a textured leaf, coin, or safe flat object. Rub gently with a crayon.

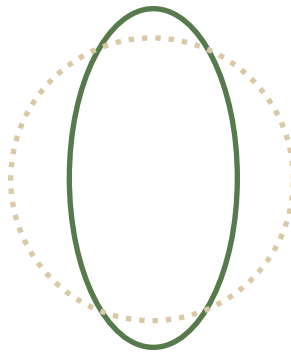


Or skip the rubbing and decorate each fossil with your own patterns.

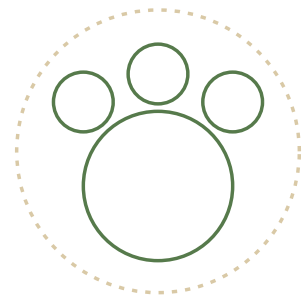
Tooth fossil



Egg fossil



Track fossil

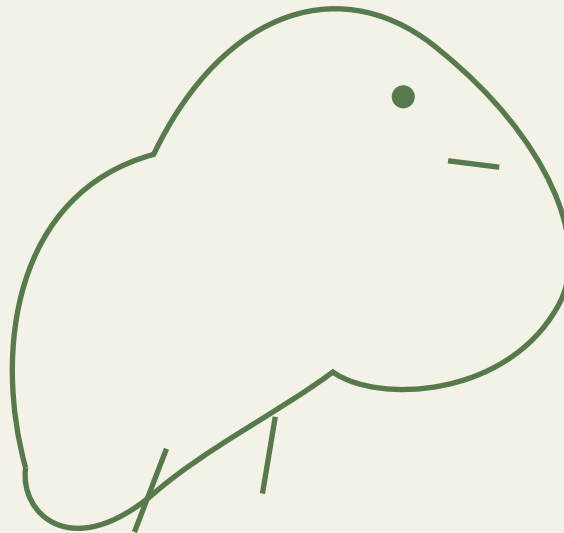


Rubbing reminder

Ask a grown-up before using crayons on any surface. Keep your paper flat, press softly, and do not rub on delicate plants or living creatures.

Color Pebble's discovery

Add a habitat, favorite colors, and a name for Pebble's fossil friend.



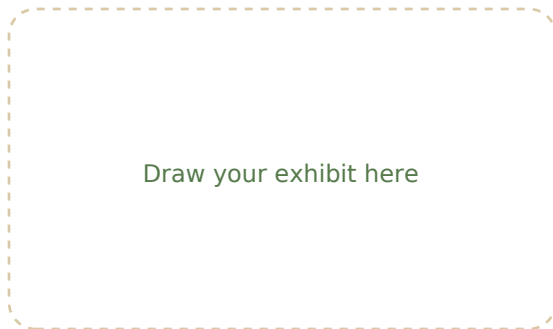
Pebble's fossil friend is named:

Build a mini dig museum

Choose your favorite find and make a tiny exhibit label.



MY BACKYARD FOSSIL EXHIBIT



Tell your guide one thing you noticed. You are the curator!

Find name

Where I found it

Museum checklist

- ☐ I chose a clue.
- ☐ I made a label.
- ☐ I told someone about it.

Bonus: display this page somewhere proud!

Grown-up answer key

A quick check for puzzle pages—celebrate effort first!



Page 7 • Match the fossil clues

A → 2 (tooth = hungry dinosaur)

B → 3 (track = walking dinosaur)

C → 1 (egg = nest clue)

D → 4 (tail print = swishing dinosaur)

Page 8 • Track trail

Any continuous path from GO at the lower-left to X at the upper-right works. The maze is intentionally open-ended.

Page 9 • Word search

FOSSIL (row 1), BRUSH (row 2), TRACK (row 3), LEAF (row 4), STONE (row 5), BONE (row 8).

Page 10 • Dino dig math

$$2 + 3 = 5$$

$$6 - 2 = 4$$

$$4 + 1 = 5$$

$$7 - 3 = 4$$

Bonus: either 5-answer question becomes 6.

Page 11 • Code

● ▲ ■ ★ = P L A Y

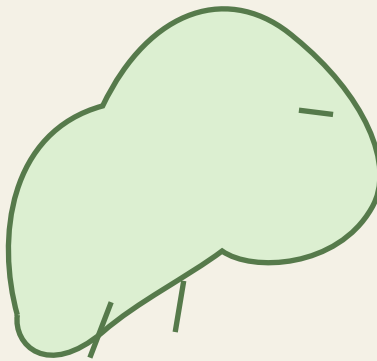
Pages 4–6 and 12–14 are creative activities—every safe exploration counts!

QUESTSPROUT CERTIFIES

QUEST COMPLETE!

This brave explorer has completed the

DINO DIG: BACKYARD FOSSIL QUEST



for observing carefully, solving bravely, and playing curiously.

Explorer name

Date

Expedition guide

ADVENTURE APPROVED