

Fossil Pasta Dinosaurs

from the Texas Memorial Museum

Be a paleontologist and make a unique art project for your wall!

Materials:

- 2 ½ cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- paper or foam plates
- dry pasta in various shapes: spaghetti, elbows, bowties, conch shells, rings, stars
- pinto beans



(Experiment with different recipes! Add food coloring for different colored "soil" or use wheat flour instead of white for a more grainy texture and natural sand color.)

Procedure:

1. Mix together flour, salt, and water; knead together in a ball of dough.
2. Press some dough flat on a plate in a layer that's about 1/2 inch thick.
3. Think of your favorite dinosaur, and choose pasta pieces to be the "bones" of the dinosaur skeleton.
4. Press the bones down into the dough layer; arrange them in the shape of your dinosaur's skeleton.
5. Press down a few pinto beans around the skeleton as rocks in your soil layer.
6. Let dry flat for at least 24-48 hours.

Congratulations, you've excavated a fossil pasta dinosaur!