

## Information for Teachers

# Big Fossil Dig KS2 Session at Flag Fen Archaeology Park

**Ever wondered what lies beneath the Flag Fen landscape? 160 million years ago, this area was under a shallow tropical sea, teeming with life. Step back in time and explore what creatures would have been swimming in this area during the Jurassic period.**

### Fossil Handling

Pupils will have the opportunity to handle real Jurassic fossils to discover the fascinating Jurassic creatures that would have swam in this area 160 million years ago. They will identify the fossils and the Jurassic creatures they came from and find out what these fossils tell us about life millions of years ago.



### Fossil Formation

In this activity, pupils will work in groups to participate in a hands-on approach to exploring how fossils are formed. Pupils will work in groups to develop an understanding of chronology and how to interpret evidence during excavation. Considering evidence from larger fossils found in the local area, pupils will discover how fossils can provide clues about what life was like in the Jurassic sea.



### Be a Palaeontologist!

Be a Palaeontologist and use tools to uncover real fossils in our Big Fossil Dig. Pupils will excavate the fossil-bearing Oxford Clay, extracted and brought here directly from a local quarry, to find real Jurassic fossils. They will clean their fossils and then identify what they have found by making comparisons to the fossils handled earlier in the day.

### Jurassic craft activity

Pupils will look at the features of Jurassic fossils and discuss what the children think the creature would have looked like when it was swimming in the tropical sea 160 million years ago. They will then implement these ideas to create their own Jurassic creature made from clay.

**National Curriculum links:** History, English, Science, Art.

## Learning objectives:

### Participating in the 'Big Fossil Dig' activities, pupils will:

- make observations of the fossils and the marine reptiles.
- talk about features of the marine reptiles' environment.
- use spoken language to develop understanding of this past life and landscape through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas.
- participate in discussions and presentations.
- describe and compare the structure of a variety of marine reptiles and also compare to our human body.
- explore and compare the differences between things that are living to those that are now extinct.



### Other information:

<b>Duration:</b>	10am- 2pm
<b>Cost:</b>	£262.50 + VAT per group. Minimum charge for groups of less than 20 pupils is £210 + VAT.
<b>Maximum group size:</b>	Maximum number per group is 30 pupils. We can cater up to 3 classes. Please contact us if you wish to bring 3 classes.
<b>Recommended ratio:</b>	Minimum 1 adult to 8 students.
<b>Booking information:</b>	To book, please contact us by phone or email. When the activities and date are agreed, a booking form and risk assessment is emailed to you. To confirm the visit we ask that you complete the booking form and email it back to us.
<b>A note about behaviour:</b>	School teachers have overall responsibility for the behaviour of their pupils and we expect you to support Flag Fen staff with this where necessary. As you know, pupils benefit significantly when school staff and adults also get involved in the activities so please join in where appropriate.