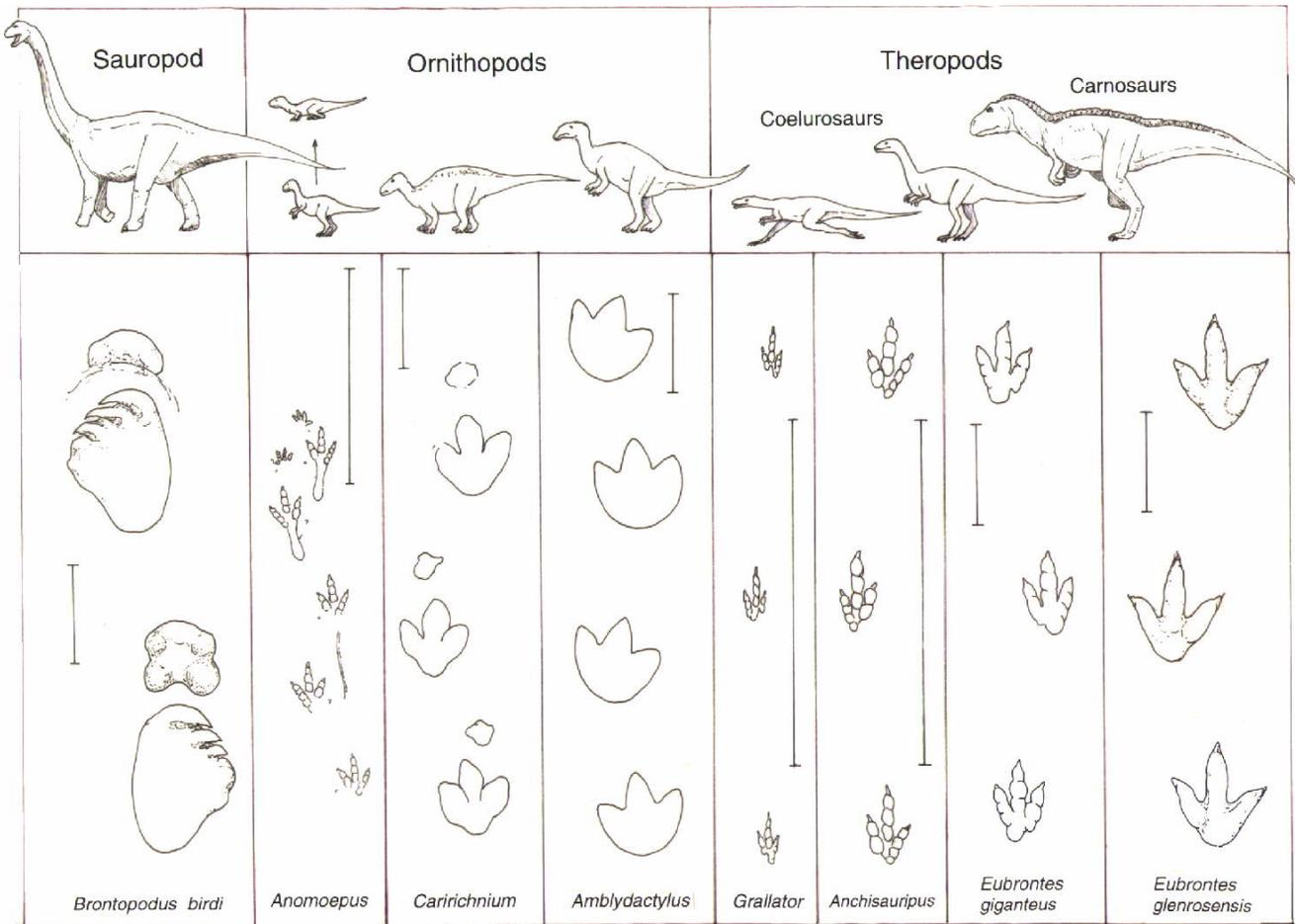


Footprint Fossils/Trace Fossils



MATERIALS

Toy dinosaurs (or other animals), vegetables cut into footprint shaped stamps (potato, sweet potato, carrot). Can also use found natural materials such as shells, seeds, pine cones, or sturdy leaves.

Play-Dough, air-drying clay, Fimo, salt dough (see recipe below), or even sugar cookie dough!

MAKE YOUR FOSSILS

If you are making fossil cookies, be sure to wash your dinosaurs or stamping materials before using them! Flatten out the dough with your hands or a roller. “Walk” your dinosaurs across the dough or use vegetable stamps to create the footprints—can you tell a story with the prints? For other materials, press firmly into the dough. It may be helpful to use the roller. You can use cookie cutters to cut out the impressions in decorative shapes. Create a hole at the top of a shape with a straw or pencil before drying to create a hanging decoration, or glue a magnet or pin back to the shape after it is dried.

Salt Dough Recipe

½ to 1 cup salt

1 cup flour

1/2 cup water

Optional: food coloring

Mix the ingredients together. Knead the dough together for at least 5 minutes. The longer you knead, the smoother your dough will be.

Store your salt dough in an airtight container and you will be able to use it for days. You can let your salt dough creations air dry, however salt dough can also be dried in the oven. **Bake** at 200 F until your creation is dry. The amount of time needed to bake your creations depends on size and thickness; thin flat ornaments may only take 45-60 minutes, thicker creations can take 2-3 hours or more. You can increase your oven temperature to 350 F, your dough will dry faster but it may also brown, which won't matter if you are painting your entire creation (you can also cover your dough in the oven with foil before it turns brown).

If using food coloring, you may want to divide the dough into small batches for different colors—then you can blend/marbleize with them. You can **paint** your creations with acrylic paints and seal with varnish or polyurethane spray.



Dinosaur trackway near Morrison, Colorado

LEARN MORE ABOUT DINOSAUR FOSSILS

How do dinosaur fossils form? <https://youtu.be/87E8bQrX4Wg>

Learn all about how fossils are formed, the types of fossils and more! <https://youtu.be/tyOjxjFHW-c>

Dinosaurs for kids <https://youtu.be/dktnOPfE7Dc>

National Geographic Fossils 101 https://youtu.be/bRuSmxJo_iA