Roll-a-Story: Paleontologist for One Day

Ideal for grades: 1-4

Materials Needed: roll a storyboard, die, and writing materials

Categories: pre-visit, post-visit, museum activity, numbers, story, dinosaur

In this activity, students will write a creative story about discovering a fossil as a paleontologist. Using the roll storyboard provided as story prompts, students select one item to discover, the location in which they found it, and a problem they encounter.

Instructions: You may want to begin this activity with a class discussion about what a paleontologist does and what kind of discoveries they can make in different environments. You can replace the term “paleontologist” with “fossil scientist” with younger students. Students roll a dice and match their number to the dice on the roll a story board provided on Template A. Students roll a dice a total of three times. The first roll selects the discovery, second for the place where they found it, and third for the problem. Next, have students write and draw their story using the lines on Template B. Note that instead of using die, you may choose to have students pull numbers from a hat.

Curriculum Links

Big Ideas: English Language Arts

Grades 1 and 2:
- Playing with language helps us discover how language works

Grade 3:
- Language and story can be a source of creativity and joy

Grade 4:
- Using language in creative and playful ways helps us understand how language works

Curricular Competency: Science

Grades 1 to 4:
- Generate and introduce new or refined ideas when problem solving
**Template A**

**Roll-a-Story: Paleontologist for One Day**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What did you find?</th>
<th>Where did you find it?</th>
<th>What problem did you encounter?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bones</td>
<td>A desert</td>
<td>There are rattle snakes everywhere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teeth</td>
<td>A tall mountain</td>
<td>There is no bathroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A footprint</td>
<td>A forest</td>
<td>You have to walk 5 hours to get there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A shell</td>
<td>Near a riverbed</td>
<td>You don’t know what the specimen is.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral</td>
<td>Near the ocean</td>
<td>The digging tools break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An egg</td>
<td>On an island</td>
<td>The ferry broke down.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Template B
Name: _______________

Roll-a-Story: Paleontologist for One Day
Title: ______________________________

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Created for Beaty Museum Educational use by Miguel Gomez, education practicum student.
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