

Experiment Manual

IGNITION SERIES

DINOSAUR FOSSILS

Thames & Kosmos



Warning! — This set contains chemicals that may be harmful if misused. Read cautions on individual containers carefully. Not to be used by children except under adult supervision.

Giant of the Past

He is today's most famous dinosaur: *Tyrannosaurus rex*. No human has even seen a living dinosaur. Dinosaurs died out 60 million years before the first prehistoric men appeared. Everything that we know about them has been deduced from fossil remains found by researchers of prehistoric animals, who are known as paleontologists.

The enormous bones of these gigantic animals have been preserved in stone in many locations, where they can be dug up, assembled into a skeleton, and displayed in museums. This kit introduces you to the fascinating work of paleontologists.

Contents



- 1 Plaster, white
- 2 Plaster, brown
- 3 Mold
- 4 Safety Goggles
- 5 Chisel
- 6 Spoon

- 7 Hammer
- 8 Paintbrush
- 9 Sponge
- 10 Rib cage, right
- 11 Rib cage, left
- 12 Tail

- 13 Leg, left
- 14 Arm, left
- 15 Leg, right
- 16 Arm, right
- 17 Lower jaw
- 18 Skull (2-part)

6

Once you have made up your mind about how you want to position your skeleton parts, you can start to fill the next plaster layer. Again, it's completely up to your own imagination whether you want to alternate plaster colors or not. You can also vary the amount of plaster that you add to each layer. For thin layers, just add a little less plaster, and add a little more for thicker ones.

Distribute the plaster for the next layer evenly over the mold. Then "jiggle" the basin again, which will help it slip beneath the skeleton pieces and prevent the formation of hollow spaces. Then let the basin sit quietly for about 20 minutes. That will help the plaster harden in the water, and the individual plaster layers will be easier to separate later on when you dig them



2. You will have to pay attention and work carefully while excavating your fossil, because of course you just want to remove the plaster layers from the fossil without harming the fossil itself. It is best to start in the center of the block, digging cautiously into the plaster layers with hammer and chisel until you come to the skeleton. When you hit a bone or another skeleton part, uncover it carefully by working from all sides. The paintbrush will also be helpful here. Do not try to pull out the bones while they are still attached to the plaster. They can easily break apart!



3. Now you can work through the plaster block piece by piece and uncover all of the skeleton parts. You can consult the picture on page 1 to check if any pieces are still missing. You will still have to carefully clean the excavated pieces so there isn't any plaster residue stuck to them (including in their hollow spaces). Use the paintbrush and the narrow hook at the rear end of the hammer for this.

