



Sedgwick Museum
of Earth Sciences

Gravel Hunters

Curriculum links:

Science: Living things and their habitats. Rocks. Evolution and inheritance.

Literacy: Speaking and listening, creative writing.

Art: Drawing and illustration

Resources

- Gravel hunters game sheet
- Gravel hunters identification tips
- Gravel hunters video
- Local gravel, gravel driveway, or bag of gravel from DIY store.
- Tray and magnifiers for each group

Sorting

This activity can be used as an introduction to classification.

Get into to groups and search through your gravel, pick out anything interesting and put it on a tray. Ask each group to sort their finds using their own criteria. After they have made their groupings ask children to justify the reasons for their criteria. Has every group used the same criteria? Why might using different criteria be a problem for scientist describing the natural world?

What fossils can you find?

The aim of this activity is close observation of natural objects

Give each group the game sheet and see what they can find. Ask the children to compare their finds and vote for the ones they think are fossils. Ask them to justify their reasons using the game sheet and ID tips.

Big thinking

These prompts can be used to stimulate thinking about how fossils are formed, or as story telling or art prompts.

Imagine you are a piece of flint gravel. Tell your story (in words or pictures) from the time you formed on the bottom of the sea to being picked up by someone today.

Imagine you are swimming in the warm sea that covered a lot of England 90 million years ago. What can you see? What can you hear? What can you smell? How does it feel?

