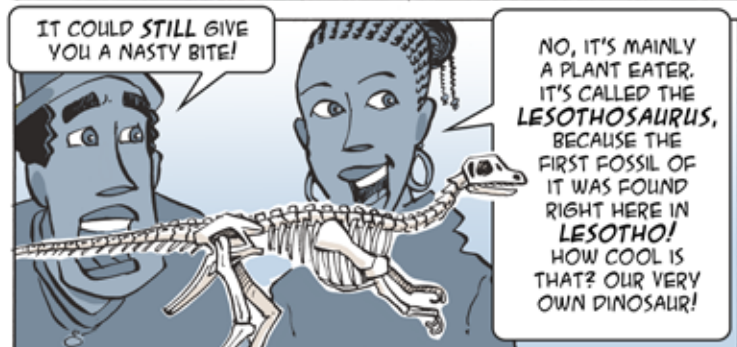
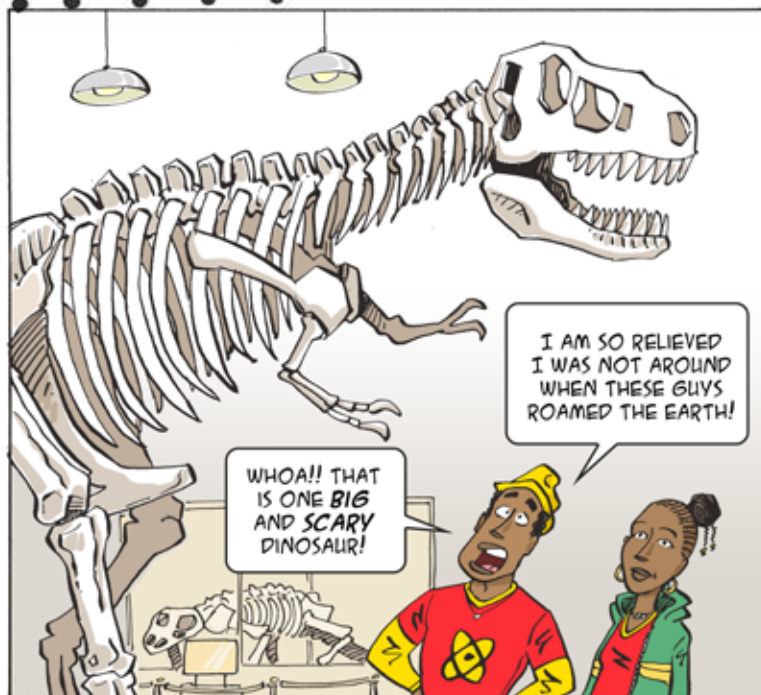
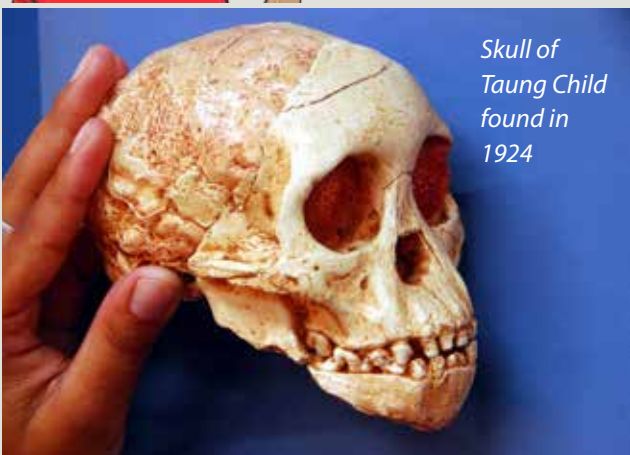




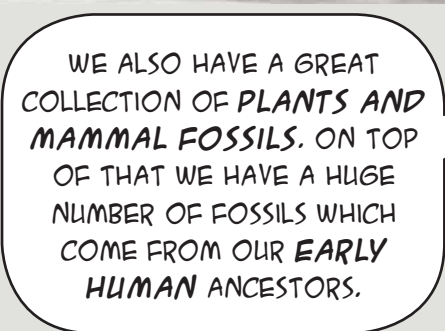
## PALAEONTOLOGY



### SOUTHERN AFRICA IS RICH IN FOSSILS!



Skull of Taung Child found in 1924



# CREATE YOUR OWN FOSSILS

**1** FOR THIS ACTIVITY, EITHER USE **PLASTER OF PARIS** (IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO SOME) OR SOME **CLAYEY SOIL** WHICH YOU WILL MAKE INTO THICK (NOT TOO WET) MUD. FORM THE PLASTER OF PARIS OR MUD INTO FLAT, ROUND SHAPES.



**3** PRESS THE LEAVES INTO THE PLASTER OF PARIS OR MUD. YOU SHOULD SEE THE SHAPE OF THE LEAF AND ITS VEINS LEFT WHEN YOU LIFT THE LEAF UP CAREFULLY.



**2** FIND SOME LEAVES THAT HAVE LARGE VEINS IN THEM.



**4** PLACE THE MUD OR PLASTER OF PARIS IN A SUNNY PLACE TO DRY. THIS PROCESS IS SIMILAR TO HOW FOSSILS WERE FORMED.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?



There are many *different types of Fossils*.

Some look like the *actual object* - like dinosaur bones or petrified (preserved) wood.

If only the *pattern or outline* of a plant or animal remains, it is called an *impression* (a picture) Fossil.



Picture by Brocken Inaglory (Own work) (Wikimedia Commons)



WHAT TYPE OF FOSSIL DID YOU MAKE IN THE ACTIVITY?



## SA REFERENCE

It is not only Fossils of dinosaurs and early humans that are Found in South Africa. We also have Fossils of an extinct plant called *Glossopteris*.

These Fossils are easily recognized because the leaves are *tongue shaped*. Every time a new *Glossopteris* Fossil is Found it is like the plants are sticking their tongues out at us!



Photo and illustration by Dr Rose Prevec



A crazy Fact about these amazing plants is that some of them were **30 metres tall!**

## CAREERS:

### Palaeontologists

are scientists who study Fossils – these can be of dinosaurs, animals, plants and early humans. A palaeontologist needs to know about the earth's history and geology. Their job includes Finding and digging up Fossils, then identifying them and researching how and why they are there.



Palaeontologists dig up fossils to learn more about our past.

## CURRICULUM LINKS

- **GRADE 7:**  
Natural Sciences - Life & Living (Biodiversity)
- **GRADE 8:**  
Natural Sciences - Life & Living (Interactions and interdependence within the environment)
- **GRADE 10, 11 & 12:**  
Tourism – Tourism attractions, Culture and Heritage

# PUZZLE YOUR MIND!!!

LINK EACH PICTURE TO A FACT ...

Eats plants  
and has its  
own shield  
behind its head



Plant eating  
dinosaur with  
two rows of  
bony plates  
along its back.

Lives in ponds  
and eats  
water plants



Flying dinosaur

Top dinosaur  
predator  
(catches and  
eats other  
dinosaurs)



Small dinosaur  
that walked on  
its hind legs  
and Fossils  
of it were  
First Found in  
Lesotho

## START YOUR OWN SCIENCE SPAZA

Do you want to start a science club at your school? Send us the following information, and Science Spaza will contact you.

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Visit [www.sciencespaza.org](http://www.sciencespaza.org), email [info@sciencespaza.org](mailto:info@sciencespaza.org), sms or WhatsApp us on 076 173 7130 or write to us at PO Box 22106, Mayor's Walk, 3208.

### WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

SEND US SOME PHOTOS OF THE PLANT FOSSIL YOU CREATED. SEND US A VIDEO EXPLAINING WHAT KIND OF FOSSIL (TRUE FORM OR MOULD) YOUR PLANT FOSSIL IS.



This Science Spaza resource was produced for the National Science Week celebrations of Science for Sustainable Tourism. National Science Week is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST). It is implemented by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA), a business unit of the National Research Foundation. For more information visit [www.saasta.ac.za](http://www.saasta.ac.za)



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