

# GETTING STARTED

## AN INTRODUCTION TO JR. PALEONTOLOGIST

Science Alberta Foundation is pleased to make *Jr. Paleontologist*, one of our *Science-In-A-Crate* programs, available in your community!

*Jr. Paleontologist* is a program that encourages participants to explore the world of paleontology while practicing science and math skills. The 7 activities in this crate are developed around a single story about a paleontologist. (All of the details in the story were given to us by the very imaginative minds in Ms. Devitt's and Ms. Gomes' kindergarten classes.) The story is in the form of the Paleontologist's photo album, illustrating an unbelievable day in the life of our paleontologist...

Our paleontologist is very excited to get to work today. He has some very special visitors coming to tour his lab. When the paleontologist gets to work, he finds his lab in a gigantic mess! Your students need to help the paleontologist get ready for his visitors by working through the 7 activities using their problem solving, observation, classification, creativity, and co-operation skills. (You can find each of the activities represented in the photo of the paleontologist's lab.) After completing the activities, return to the story to see how it ends... Thanks to your students, the lab is tidy and ready just in time for the special visitors.

The story was designed as a picture book so that your own students could have fun with some of the details in the story. Probing questions for each photo are written on the facing pages. (This works best when you flip the pages like you would on a flip chart.)

Also included in the crate is a set of 28 vocabulary words. Students will encounter these words when completing the activities. You may decide to integrate the vocabulary words into your lessons by placing them at the activity stations, posting them on your wall, or by making each a "word of the day"... how you use them is up to you!

The *Jr. Paleontologist* crate meets the Kindergarten Mathematics and Community and Environmental Awareness curriculum. This activity guide provides the background information for each activity at the Kindergarten level as well as detailed instructions for each activity. The activity topics are as follows:

Making Fossils	Make a mould and cast of prehistoric items.
Dinosaur Dig	Excavate a fossil dig site.
Dino Size	Compare the mass of 4 dinosaurs to everyday objects.
From Tip to Tail	Compare the length of 5 prehistoric animals.
Prehistoric Parts	Create your own prehistoric animal.
Bag of Bones	Make a life-sized dinosaur skeleton.
Epidermis for the Era	Texture and colour prehistoric animals so they fit into their surroundings.