

# Activity: Cast Fossil

## THE TOOLS YOU'LL NEED

- Sand
- Shells
- Plaster of Paris
- Water
- Measuring Cup or 2 Cups of equal size
- Container bigger than your shells
- Bowl or Cup large enough for mixing
- Large spoon or stick
- Safety Glasses
- Adult Supervision and Help



Plaster of Paris may cause burns. Be sure to wash hands with soap and water when you are finished with this project.



**Step 1**  
Fill the container  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with wet sand.  
Do not pack it down.



**Step 2**  
Press shells into the sand, leaving  
a distinct impression.



**Step 3**  
Gently remove the shells.



**Step 4**  
Mix the plaster of Paris, following  
the package instructions.



**Step 5**  
Pour the plaster of Paris over the shell  
impression, covering it completely.  
Wait 45 minutes, or until dry.



**Step 6**  
Carefully lift the plaster and brush away  
the sand. You may also use a little water  
to help clear away the sand.