

# Instructions: “Is this a fossil?” Card Game

**Recommended Grade:** any; adapt as needed

**This game is meant to accompany the “An Introduction to Fossils” slideshow. Go through the slides with your students prior to doing this activity.**

## **Supplies:**

- Educational slideshow “An Introduction to Fossils”
- “Is this a fossil” card deck
- Paper and writing utensils for notes (optional)

## **Learning Outcomes:**

- Differentiate between fossils and pseudofossils and identify some common types of fossils.

## **Instructions:**

This is a simple compare and contrast game that teaches students how to tell what is and is not a fossil. To play, split your students into groups and distribute cards. Group size will be dependent on the number of students in your classroom.

Students will then sort the cards into fossils and non-fossils. Some cards are more difficult than others and some groups may end up having all fossil cards. Encourage students to talk in their groups and discuss why something is or is not a fossil.

Once all groups have sorted their cards, go over the answers as a class and have students share why they sorted each card into each category.

## **Ways to take it further:**

After you have gone through the answers as a class, you can create a compare and contrast chart on the board of the different qualities that differ between fossils and non-fossils with the input of students. Alternatively, students can create their own individual compare and contrast charts.

You can also have students sort the fossil cards into body fossils and trace fossils and then repeat the same steps as before.

## **Curricular Competencies:**

*The complexity of these competencies varies by grade. These are summarized from the [BC Curriculum](#) for brevity.*

- Make and record observations of events and living and non-living things, in familiar and unfamiliar settings.
- Share and communicate observations and ideas in a variety of ways.
- Collect, sort, and classify data and information using drawings, pictographs, and/or tables.

- Identify and communicate patterns and relationships in data orally and through the construction of tables, graphs, etc.
- Make predictions and inferences based on prior and given knowledge.
- Compare observations and predictions to suggest and/or develop possible explanations for findings.

**Curricular Content:**

- Properties of familiar materials (**Kindergarten**)
  - Such as colour, texture (smooth or rough), flexibility (bendable or stretchable), hardness, luster (shiny or dull), absorbency, etc.
- Classification of living and non-living things (**Grade 1**)
- Local types of Earth materials (**Grade 5**)
- The fossil record provides evidence for changes in biodiversity over geological time (**Grade 7**)