

PASTA PALEONTOLOGY



Image source: Amanda Raiche of CSLP

PROGRAM TYPE

Arts & crafts
Low cost
Passive

AGES

Early Literacy
Children 5-8

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Children will paint a background, then make a dinosaur skeleton with different shapes of dried pasta. Suggested runtime: 30-60 minutes.

MATERIALS

- Paper (construction paper, cardstock, watercolor paper, or sandpaper)
- White glue
- Pasta in various shapes
- Paints, brushes, water cups, optional
- Templates, optional

TIP:

To make this project into a take-and-make kit, include a mixture of dry pasta shapes and a template or sandpaper for the base. Invite participants to share their creations on social media!

TIP:

Add other elements to add texture and interest to the painted background. Add water droplets, lay plastic wrap, or sprinkle salt over a wet watercolor background to add texture. Remove plastic wrap or brush off salt when dry to see the effect. For tempera or acrylic paint, use cotton swabs, forks, or paint scrapers to add texture.

ADAPTATION:

For a shorter program or younger children, skip creating the background and instead provide plain cardstock or sandpaper to build the skeleton on. Younger children may also benefit from skeleton templates or dinosaur outlines to guide the placement of the pasta.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Paint the background to create the scene for the skeleton. This could be made to look like underground or could be above ground!
- While the paint is drying, lay out the pasta pieces to create the dinosaur skeleton on a separate piece of paper or the tabletop. Do not glue it down.
- Once the background paint is dry, glue the pasta pieces down on top of the scene to create the skeleton. Liquid white glue works best, drawing lines with the tip of the bottle.

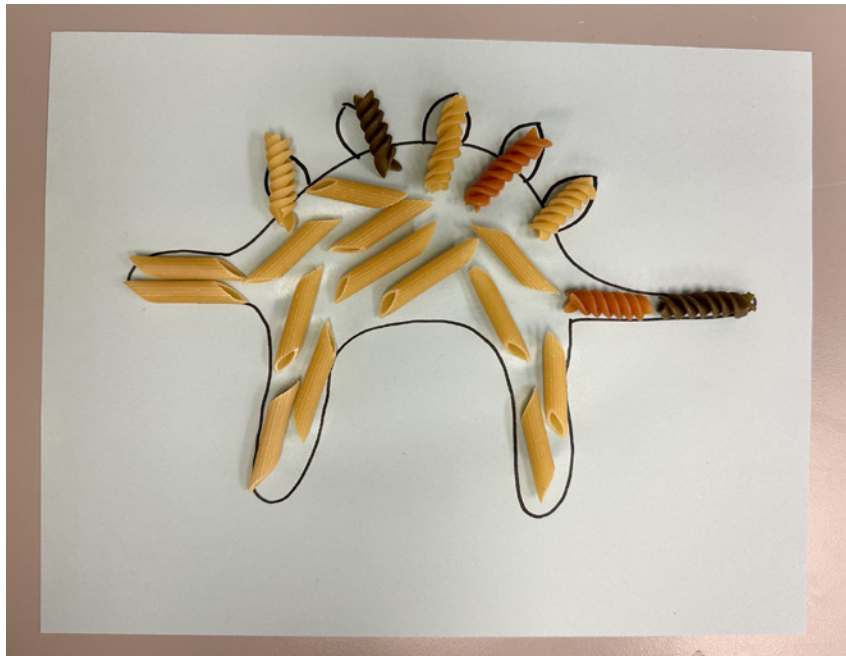


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