

## Beginning 30 – Activities

### ✓ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

#### **Fossil Formation**

The Bible says that the flood wiped out all living things on the earth. If that is a true account then one would expect to find evidence of a flood. What evidence would you expect to find? There would be evidence in the fossil record of scores of animals being wiped out. There would be layers of sedimentation laid down which would harden into sedimentary rock.

Note: The discussion below is to encourage the students to think through how fossils are made and why there would be so many fossils in the rock layers. It would be good to go through this before completing the crossword puzzle. The Investigation Activity in the next lesson will deal with sedimentation.

- What is a fossil? A fossil is a part of a plant or animal where the cells have been replaced by minerals from the water that moves through the ground.
- Where are most fossils found? Fossils are found everywhere in the world. Most fossils are found in sedimentary rock. A lot of the time, the fossils are found as a big jumbled pile of bones and sea life.
- What is sedimentary rock? Sedimentary rocks are rocks formed by the accumulation or settling of sediment (particles in water) on the earth's surface. The settled particles undergo cementation, hardening into rock.
- The most common fossil is that of sea creatures with hard shells. How would the flood explain that? As the sea was churned up by the floodgates of the deep opening, sea creatures would have floated in the water and then sunk to the bottom and been covered with mud when the water calmed down.
- How is something fossilized? To become a fossil a dead animal must be buried very quickly and deeply in water-saturated soil right when it dies.
- Under what conditions is something likely to become fossilized? A flood provides the conditions necessary for fossilization. Falling into mineral laden water in a mine could do it too. In fact a miner's hat was once found fossilized in a mine shaft. Under the right conditions fossilization can occur quickly. It doesn't take millions of years.
- What would happen to an animal under the following conditions?
  - It is buried quickly and deeply under sediment when it dies. (It could become a fossil.)
  - It dies on the ground. (Scavengers will likely tear it apart and eat it. What is left will decompose.)
  - It dies in the water. (Sharks and other fish will likely eat it. What is left will sink to the bottom and decompose.)
  - It is buried in a shallow grave. (It will rot and decompose. The bones will remain for a long time.)
- What does the fossil record tell us about the possibility of a worldwide flood?

A massive, worldwide flood would have provided the right conditions for fossilization to occur all over the earth.

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### ✓ **Acrostic Poem**

Have the children write an acrostic poem with the letters in the word “flood.” Brainstorm ideas as a group. An example is below.

F – Fossils formed, flow of water over earth

L – Lasted 40 days, left nothing alive

O – Over the whole earth

O – Only those on the ark saved

D – Destroyed everything not on the ark, devastation of earth

### ✓ **Craft:** Make a boat

As a reminder that Noah built the boat God commanded and because of that he, his family and the animals were kept safe, design a boat.

Instructions: Talk about how pictures of the ark vary. Have the children give ideas about what it may have looked like and then have them design their own ark drawing it on paper or molding one out of a material such as clay, play dough, foil, newspaper, etc.

### ✓ **Alternative Craft:** Make a Fossil

As a reminder that the flood carried away and buried every living thing, make a fossil.

Materials: 1 paper plate for each child, modeling clay, objects to make molds of (dried chicken bones, sea shells, leaves, etc.), petroleum jelly, plaster of paris, water, paper cup, plastic spoon.

Preparation: Soften up the modeling clay.

#### Step-by-step instructions:

1. Write your name on the paper plate.
2. Take a lump of modeling clay and press it out flat on the paper plate a little larger than the object you will be making a mold of.
3. Rub the object with petroleum jelly.
4. Press the object into the clay to make an impression and then remove it.
5. In the paper cup, mix four spoonfuls of plaster with 2 spoonfuls of water.
6. Pour the plaster mixture into the impression.
7. Let the plaster harden. When hard carefully separate the clay from the plaster.

### ✓ **Game:** Row, Row, Row Your Boat

As a reminder that Noah and his family and the animals were kept safe on the ark during the flood, play a boat relay race.

Instructions: Divide the group into teams. Have the children sit on their rear ends and push themselves backwards across the room and back like they were rowing. Once one rower gets back to the team the next child can go. To make it harder you can even have them sing “Row, row, row your boat.”

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### ✓ **Snack Activity**

Instructions: Discuss how Noah and his family were on the ark a long time and they probably ate pretty much the same food over and over. It would have had to be food that stored well. Serve crackers and water and ask the children what it would be like if that were all they had to eat. Discuss what else they could have eaten. Remind them how blessed we are to live where there is an abundance of food and that not all children in the world eat like they do.