

# History now

## Make a fossil

### You will need

- Object to make a fossil from
- Plasticine
- Shoebox/old tin
- Plaster of Paris
- Spoon and stick (for mixing)
- Disposable mixing container
- Water

Take your own copy of history.

In your Patrol, choose a theme such as seashells, keys, handprints or footprints. Each member makes her own fossil.



### TAKE NOTE

- This activity is messy, so it's best done outside.
- Throw any unused mixture away – rinsing the container may block up drains.

- 1 Choose an item to make a fossil from, for example a key, shell, handprint or footprint.
- 2 Put the plasticine into the shoebox or tin. Press the item into it to make an indentation.
- 3 Mix the plaster of Paris and pour it into the indentation. Leave to dry.
- 4 Once the plaster is dry, remove from the plasticine.



## Take aim - fire!

### You will need

- Cane or bamboo sticks
- String or rope
- Elastic bands
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Ping-pong balls or water balloons for ammunition

Imagine that your Patrol is a group of ancient warriors. Can you make a catapult using only the equipment listed? Draw up a design first and then see if it works. You may have to learn how to do lashings and knots to make sure that your catapult stays together!

Test your catapult out to find who has the most accurate aim and who can fire it furthest. What would you do to improve the design? If you can improve the design, give it a try and see if your ammunition will go even further!

### TAKE CARE

- Test your catapult outside in an open space.
- Don't let anyone walk on your firing range.



### IDEAS

Make a target so you have something to aim at.

### IT'S A FACT

In ancient warfare a catapult was known as a ballista. It was used for hurling large boulders.

## Rocket launch

Get ready for take-off!

### You will need

- A plastic bottle, empty
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Scraps of tissue paper and crêpe paper
- Water
- 4 tent pegs and mallet
- Rubber bung with hole in it (used in wine making)
- Plastic tubing to fit bung (used in wine making or from hardware shops)
- Foot pump or bicycle pump with adaptor (you will need to check this with the size of the tubing)

- 1 As a Patrol, use the card to make fins and attach these to your bottle with sticky tape. Use the oddments and scraps to decorate your bottle.
- 2 Half fill the bottle with water.
- 3 Bang four pegs into the ground in a small square. You should be able to balance your rocket upside down on the pegs to launch it.
- 4 Attach the tube to the rubber bung and insert it into the top of the bottle.
- 5 Attach the other end of the tube to the pump. Turn the bottle upside down and place on the launch pad.
- 6 Get pumping and watch your rocket launch into the air!

### Take it further

How far do you think your rocket travelled? Now try launching the rocket again using a different quantity of water. Which works best? Which travels furthest?

### TAKE NOTE

This activity must be done outside.

### IT'S A FACT

Did you know that rockets are shaped like arrows so they don't catch any wind?

