FOSSILIZATION:

THE ETERNAL PROOF OF LIFE

3C - MISS KRISTA

“If chickens are evolved dinosaurs, does that mean we’re eating dinosaur nuggets?”

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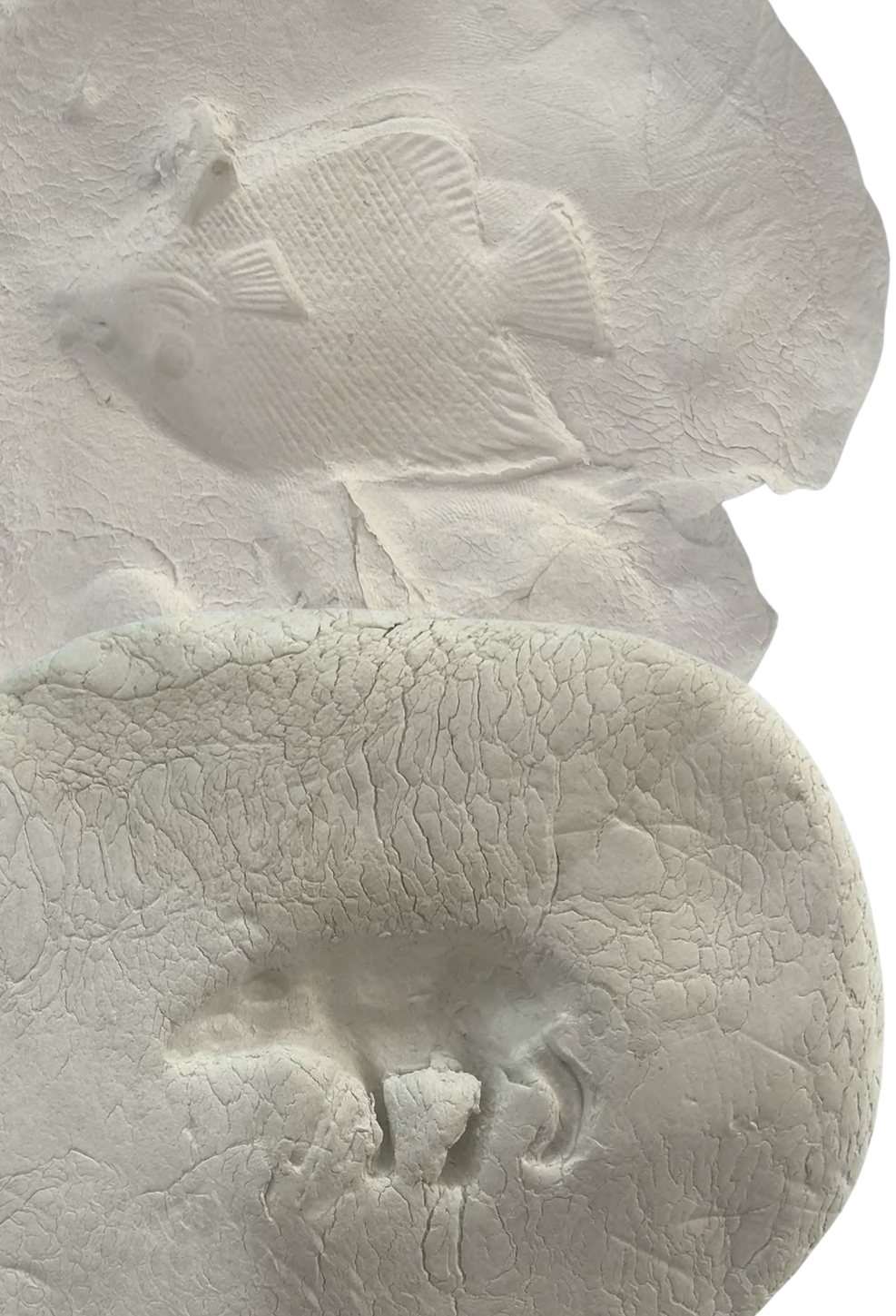
“Si las gallinas son dinosaurios evolucionados, entonces, ¿comemos nuggets de dinosaurio?”

3C and 3D

PROVOCATION ARGUMENT

We began the school year by exploring our Science book. However, it wasn't until we reached the study of fossils with the unit “Earths materials” that the children displayed a truly singular and profound curiosity for fossils.

The way the children embraced the topic served as our compass. Their wonder told us that this was the path we needed to follow. By listening to their questions, we transitioned from a standard lesson to a deep-research project, allowing the children to become protagonists of their own discovery.



HOW THIS HELPS CHILDREN

This project empowers children to develop critical thinking, curiosity, creativity and patience. By exploring fossils, they learn that history is a puzzle that requires observation and deduction. It fosters a "researcher's mindset," where they learn to value the process of discovery as much as the result, while strengthening their fine motor skills and collaborative spirits.

INTRODUCTION

In our Atelier, we believe that every object has a story to tell. This project is a journey through time, where we move from the microscopic "living" world to the silent, stony beauty of the past. It is an exploration of memory, science, and art, where children use their "hundred languages" to express what they imagine about the world that existed long before us.

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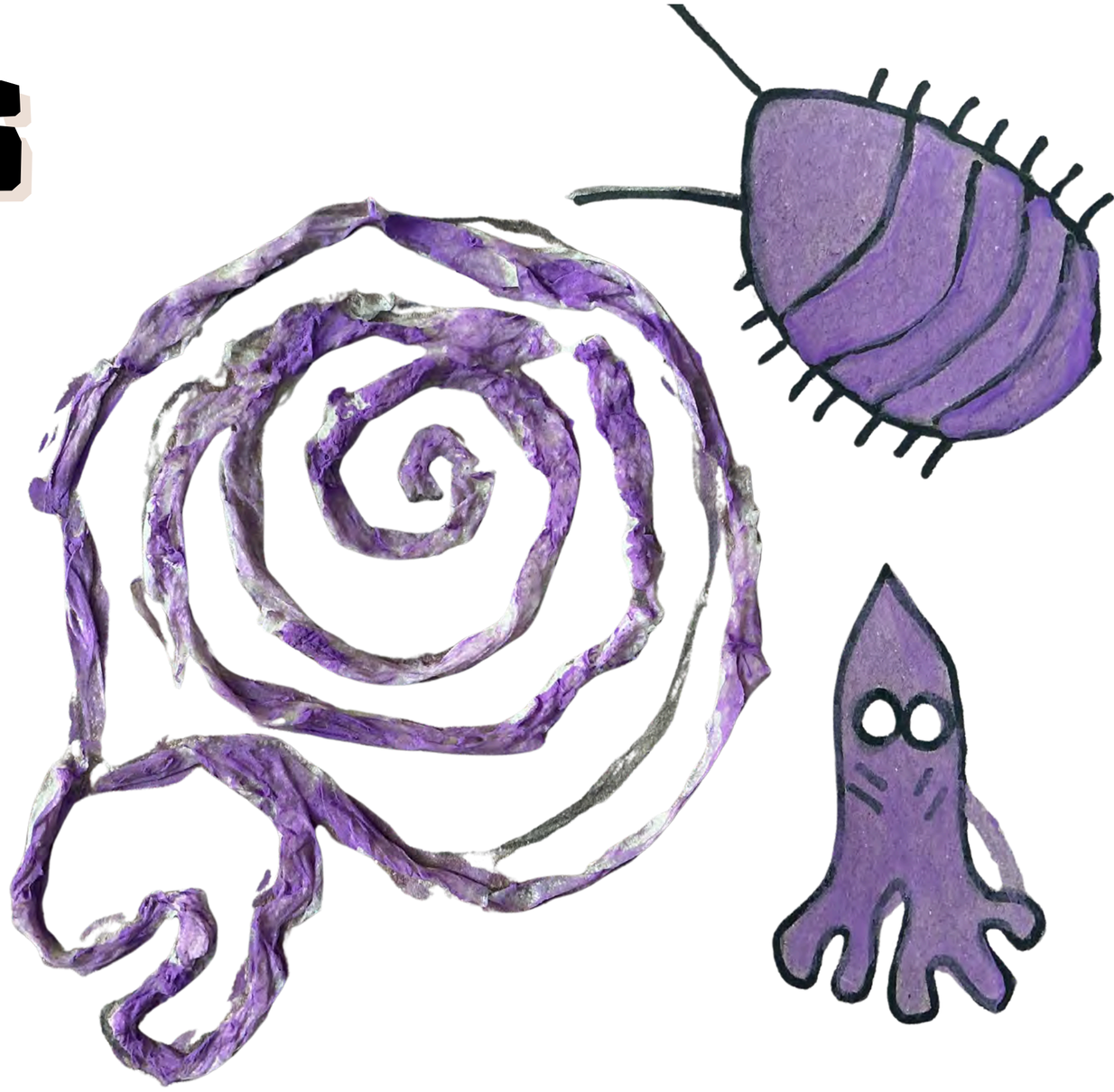


THE LIVING UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

We discovered a world full of fascinating shapes, textures, and vibrant colors.

We began our journey by looking at life in general. The microscope became our magical window, allowing us to see what is usually invisible.

However, even though what we saw was "bright" and full of movement, our collective interest led us down a different route, a path toward the crystallization of life in a different form: the fossil.

"This part looks tiny, but under the glass, it's huge!"
-Miguel Sánchez

“Everything looks so bright under the microscope."
-Mateo Méndez

SEARCHING FOOR FOSSILS

First, we asked: Who finds fossils? Pa-leon-to-logists!

A paleontologist is like a nature detective who travels back in time. They search the earth for clues, using tiny brushes and tools to uncover secrets hidden in rocks.

They study bones, footprints, and even ancient leaves to tell the story of our planet. It's a job for those with big imaginations and very patient hearts!

To truly understand this work, we created our own paleontologist outfits. Wearing our special hats, we went on a "dig". We discovered that paleontology is a methodic and patient process. It is not easy, but it is incredibly satisfying.

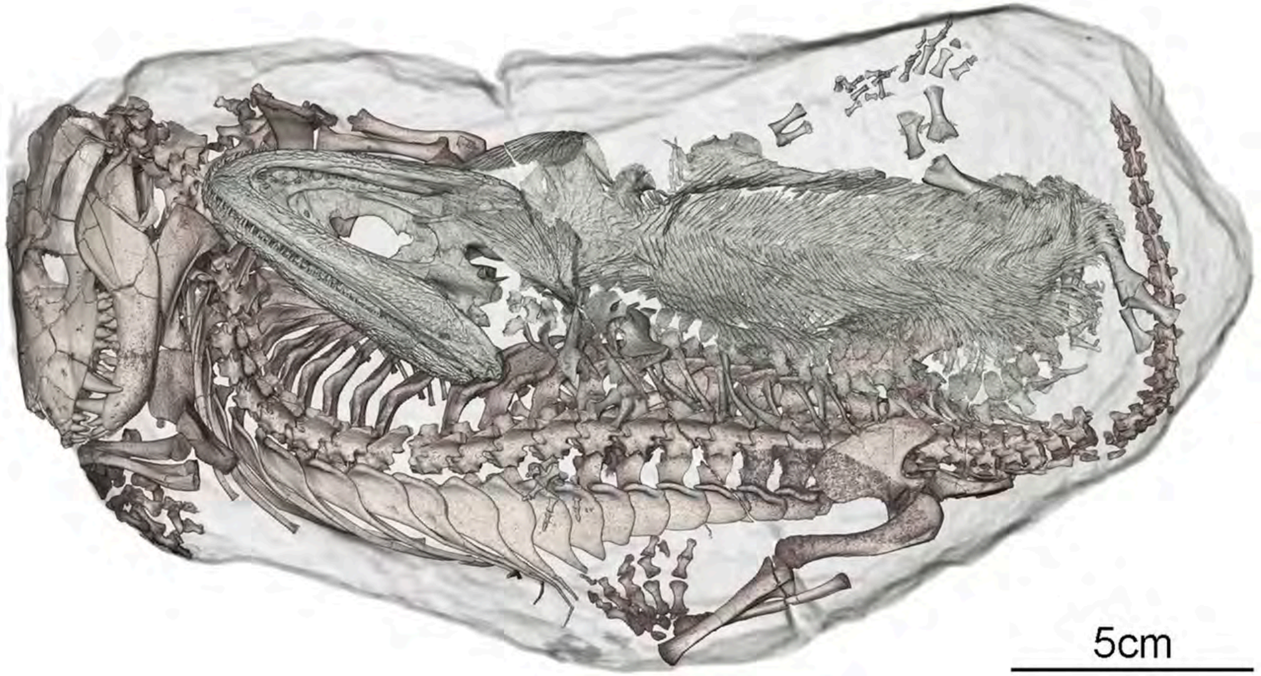
REMAKING A FOSSIL

The children acted as researchers by using DAS clay to translate 2D dinosaur templates into 3D skeletal reliefs. This tactile exploration allowed them to speak the "language of sculpture," where every pinch and roll of the material mimicked the meticulous work of a paleontologist reconstructing history.

This collaboration transformed the scientific study of fossils into a communal aesthetic experience, where the patience required by the material reinforced their understanding of time, care, and collective discovery.

Working in partnerships, the children engaged in a social construction of knowledge, negotiating the placement of each bone through dialogue and shared focus.

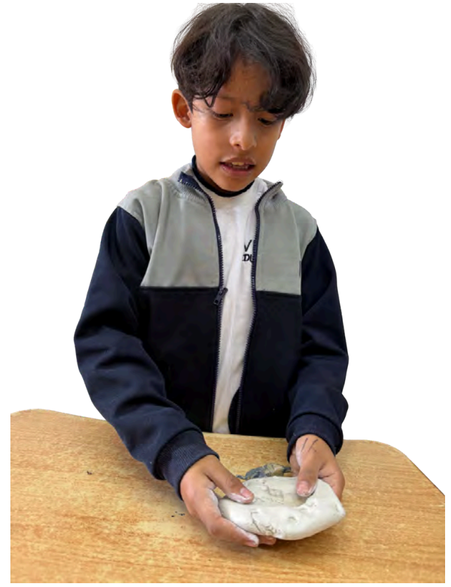
THE FOSSIL HUG



The children were captivated by the picture of an ancient embrace frozen in time that sparked a "blast" of theories and wonder. We spent time guessing the story behind the image. Was it a mother protecting her baby, or two friends caught in a sudden storm?

This emotional connection transformed our study from cold bones into a vibrant story of life, inspiring the children to move from observation to creation as they sought to imprint their own "memories" into the earth.

Using clay, we explored the technique of imprinting to capture these stories, practicing a rhythmic "conversation" between science and art.



By pressing models into the soft earth, the children felt firsthand how pressure leaves a permanent memory of a shape.

They came to understand that a fossil is far more than just a ston. It is a "sculpture" made by the collaboration of time and nature, preserving a moment of life forever.

AN AMAZING VISIT...

This encounter transformed our classroom into a real-life laboratory.

He shared fascinating "fun facts" that sparked our wonder: did you know that some fossils are as small as a grain of sand, while others are as big as a car?

He brought the past to life by sharing personal photographs from his expeditions and, most importantly, he allowed us to see and touch a real fossil. Passing a piece of history from hand to hand was a profound sensory experience for the children.

Seeing a professional's passion showed us that our curiosity in the classroom is the same curiosity that drives scientists in the field. This visit didn't just give us answers; it gave us the inspiration to keep asking deeper questions.

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MY OWN FOSSIL

This activity was deeply inspired by our encounter with the professional paleontologist. During his visit, he explained that the earth is like a giant "layer cake" of time, and that fossils are found deep within these layers of sediment. To bring this scientific concept to life, we explored a new technique using glue, water, and paper towels.

As the children applied the layers, they mimicked the slow passage of time that the expert had described. This sensory experience allowed them to visualize how "sediment" (our paper and glue) protects and preserves a shape over millions of years.

It was a beautiful moment where the fragility of paper met the strength of a scientific concept, turning the paleontologist's professional knowledge into a tangible, artistic reality.

The children realized that, just like in the real world, the secret to finding a fossil is understanding the layers that hide it.

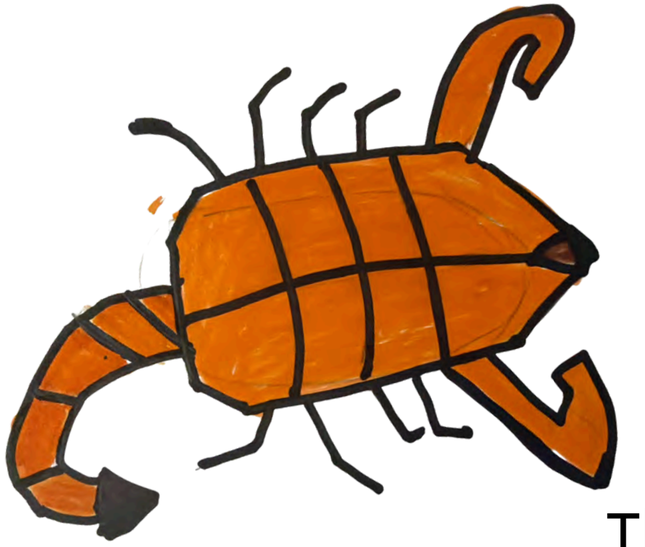
THE GIANT FOSSIL

To conclude our hands-on creations, we worked on a gigantic fossil. This required us to scale up our thinking and our movements.

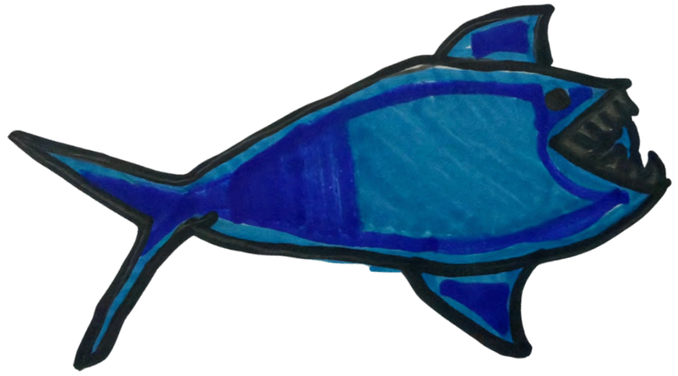
Mixing art and science on a large scale showed us the majesty of ancient creatures.

EFFORT AND CREATIVITY

We celebrate the tireless curiosity of our young researchers, who turned every challenge into a new question. This project proves that when we value the creative process, children feel confident to explore the unknown. Every fossil made is a testament to their patience, their art, and their wonderful ability to dream.



CONCLUSION



Through this project, the children have learned that the earth is a library and fossils are its books. They have moved from being observers to being creators and thinkers. As we close this unit, we carry with us a new respect for time, nature, and the stories that stay hidden beneath our feet, waiting for a curious mind to find them.