

Fossil Pasta Skeletons

In this activity, students will assemble different shapes of pasta into a pasta “skeleton” to model how paleontologists arrange bones from the fossilized skeletons they find.

Supplies:

- Pasta of different shapes and sizes (bowtie, elbow, spaghetti, shells, rings, stars, etc.)
- Tacky Glue or Rubber Cement
 - Note: white Elmer’s glue will work but pasta pieces are likely to fall off if the paper is bent
- Cardstock paper
- Outlines of Mosasaur and Sea Turtle

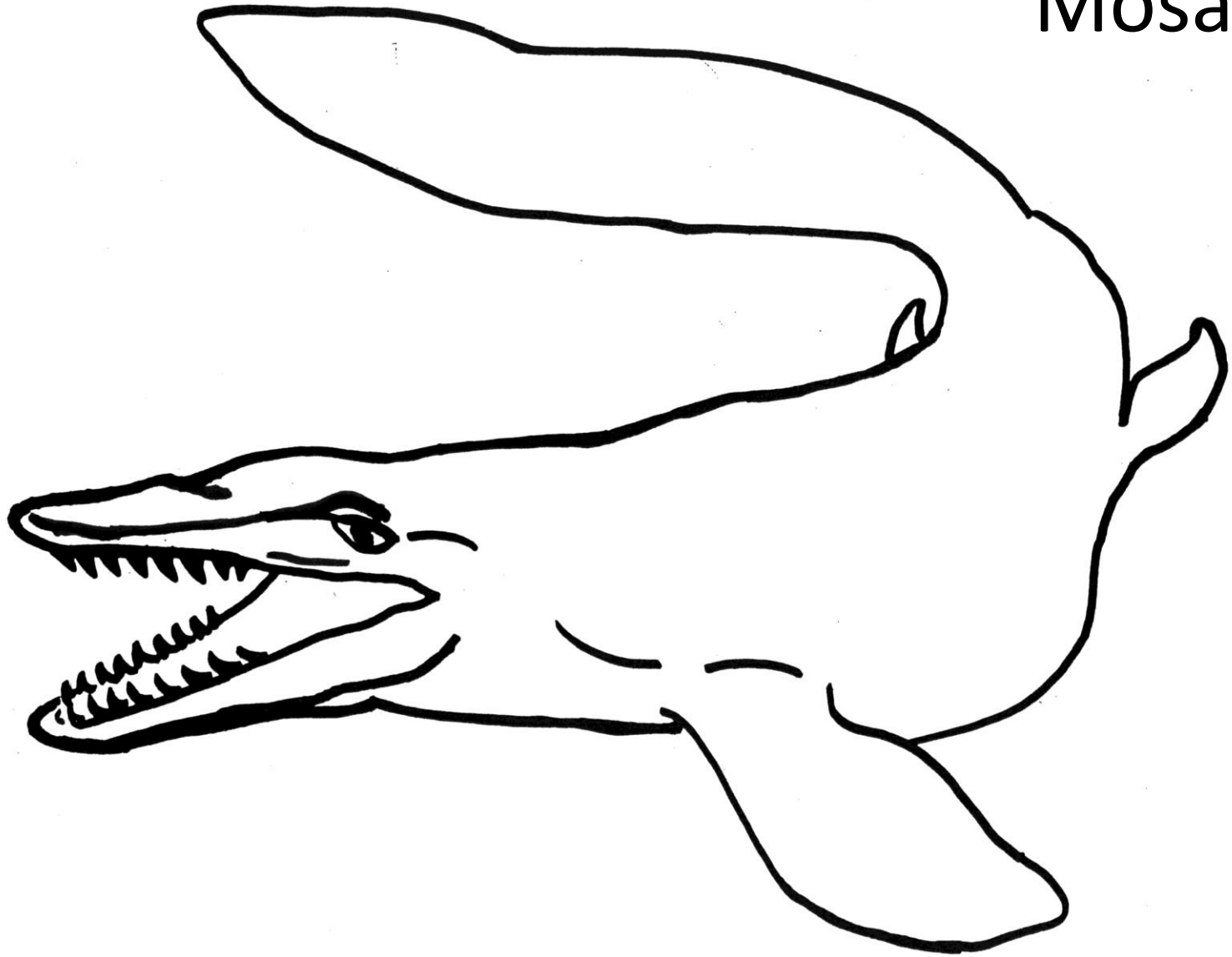
Steps:

1. Print outlines of Mosasaurs and/or Sea Turtles onto cardstock paper for each of your students.
2. Have students choose pasta pieces for the “bones” of their fossil skeletons. Arrange them first without gluing.
3. Have students glue the pasta pieces in place.
4. Let skeletons dry flat for 1 hour.

Teachable Moments

- This activity provides a perfect time to point out that not all fossilized animals are dinosaurs. Children often have the misconception that any ancient animals can be called dinosaurs. For example they might say that they saw a “dinosaur fish” or “dinosaur mammoths” at the museum. Dinosaurs are a particular group of reptiles that lived from about 230-66 million years ago. Their only remaining descendants are birds.

Mosasaur



Giant Sea Turtle

