

FOSSILIS

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OBJECT



2-5



8+



45'

You are a paleontologist, about to embark on the dig of a lifetime. An incredible deposit of dinosaur fossils has been discovered, including bones from many different species and many eras... it's an unprecedented find! Compete with other fossil hunters to carefully clear away layers of terrain, collect fragments to trade for useful tools and supplies, and find the bones the museum needs to finish its exhibits!

OVERVIEW

Use your turn to move your paleontologist pawn around the 3D dig site board. Expend increasing effort to shift terrain tiles of different weights, revealing rich deposits of bones. Gather and sell fossil Fragments to the market for indispensable Tools and Supplies. By spending Plaster to extract bones from the dig site, you'll be able to claim and complete Dinosaur cards. Scoring Dinosaurs perfectly means big points in the moment, but hurrying through them could lead to a high-scoring collection at the end of the game. Unpredictable Events divide the game into four rounds... when the dust settles, the best paleontologist wins!

PLAYING WITH YOUNG KIDS?

At KTBG we want you to be able to play with kids of all ages. Fossilis has a number of elements that you can remove to simplify the game, while maintaining the integrity. Here are the removable elements and some of our reasoning:

The Tool cards: (Require private reading and add tactical complexity)

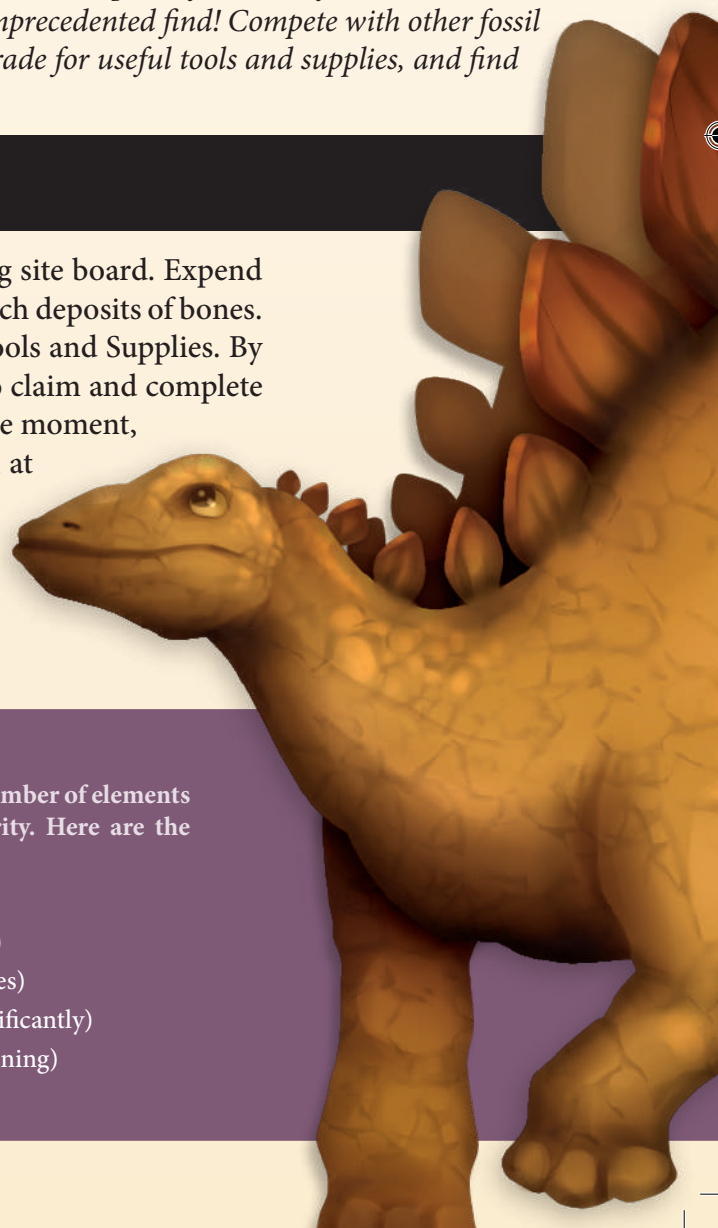
Card purchasing and Fragment collection: (Involves spending and saving)

The Skill tokens and Hammers: (Create disparity between player capabilities)

Different Energy costs for digging tiles: (Removing speeds up game significantly)

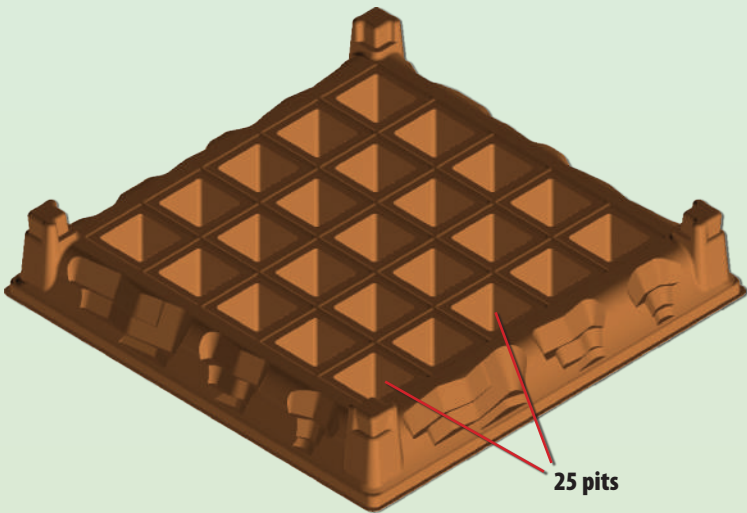
Characteristic Set scoring and All-nine scoring: (Rewards long-term planning)

Majority scoring: (Involves direct competition)



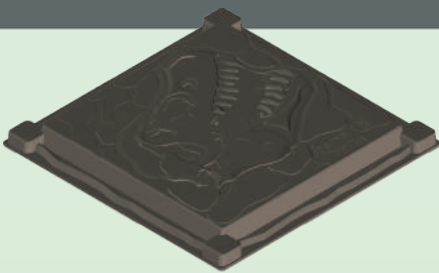
COMPONENTS

1 DIG SITE BOARD



1 SITE LID

Used during setup only.



1 BLOCKER PANEL

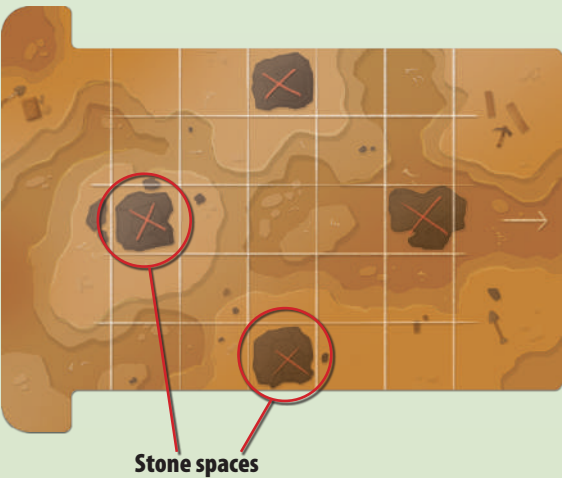
Used during setup only, but the back side has a helpful player aid.



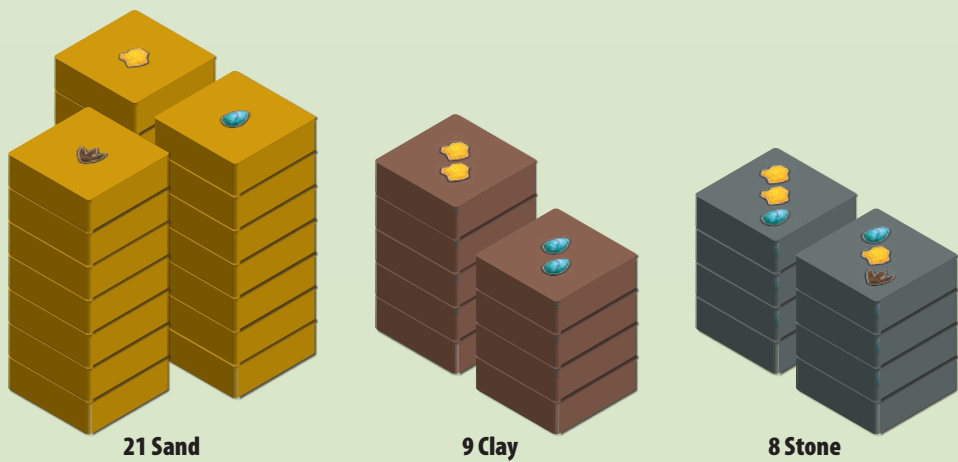
1 SCORE BOARD



The back side of the Score board is called the *Site Map* and is used to help set up the game.



38 TERRAIN TILES



1 START PLAYER MARKER



33 DINOSAUR CARDS

Yes, we know... not all of the creatures shown on the Dinosaur cards are technically dinosaurs, but we call them all Dinosaurs during the game for simplicity's sake!

Characteristics



Perfect score



Name and fun facts

DEINONYCHUS

Its name means "Terrible Claw", a reference to the oversized sickle-shaped talons found on its hind feet. Study of the Deinonychus sparked the notion that dinosaurs could have been quick and nimble predators.

Needed bones



45 BONES



3 Skulls



6 Hips



9 Ribs



12 Limbs



15 Teeth
These represent
Claws as well.

9 ROCK HAMMERS

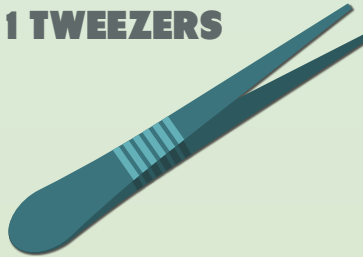


Referred to as
simply "Hammers"
throughout the rules.

5 SCORE MARKERS



1 TWEEZERS



5 PALEONTOLOGIST PAWNS



21 TOOL CARDS

Point value



Name and power

CLAY SPADE

Slide 1 CLAY tile up to 2 spaces in one direction.

Fragment cost



TOOLS

24 SUPPLIES CARDS

Bone gain



Plaster gain



Fragment cost



SUPPLIES

10 EVENT CARDS

Name

ROCKFALL!

Event instructions

Start to the right of the active player.
In reverse turn order: Players place any 1 STONE tile back on the dig site until 2 total have been placed.
If STONE runs out, place CLAY; if CLAY runs out, place SAND; if SAND then runs out, stop placing.

EVENTS

5 PLAYER MATS

Flow of play

1. Spend 1 Energy. Plus use any number of Tools.
2. Buy 1 card.
3. Claim 1 Dinosaur to your Lab. Must have at least 1 needed bone.

Skill slots

"Lab area"



Storage area

Plaster costs and leftover bone values

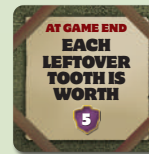
Endgame scoring

Player colour

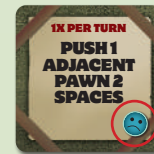
18 SKILL TOKENS



Backs

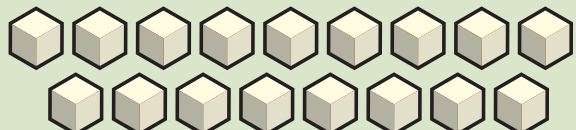


Sample fronts



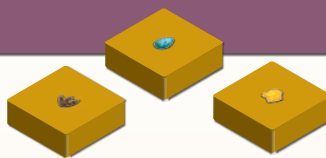
Direct conflict indicator

40 PLASTER CUBES



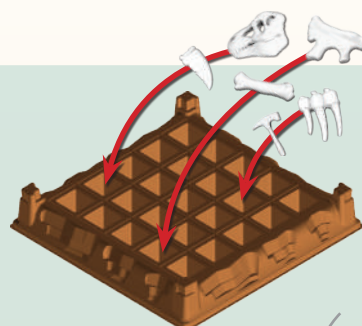
SETUP

1. Set aside three **Sand tiles** to form a face up discard pile (1 each of the three different Fragments: amber, egg, and footprint).

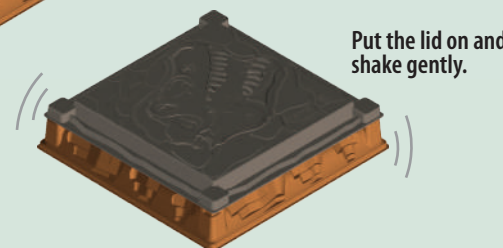


2. Prepare the dig site:

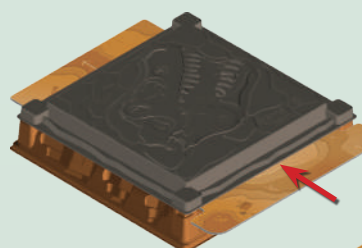
- Sprinkle all the **bones and hammers** into the pits of the **dig site**, trying to evenly spread everything. Don't look too closely at where they end up.
- Place the **lid** onto the dig site. Pick up the board with your thumbs holding the lid down so that it stays in place. Shake it around gently so that bones move around; try to do it in a mostly up-and-down motion so that bones don't end up all bunched to one side or corner.
- Slide the **site map** into the slot between the lid and the dig site. Remove the lid and return it to the box.
- Add **Terrain tiles** face up to the dig site onto the site map in two layers. All players should help with this so that it goes quickly. The rules are:
 - On the **bottom** layer, there should be a Stone tile on the four spaces of the site map marked **X**. The rest of the spaces must be Clay or Sand.
 - On the **top** layer any tile can go anywhere, but **no** tiles may go in the four corners of the dig site, and Stone may **not** be stacked on Stone.
 - There are only 10 tiles on the top layer; finish the bottom layer's 25 tiles before starting the top.
- Position the **blocker** upright between two of the dig site's posts and the tile grid. Hold it firmly in place, and pull the site map out from underneath the tiles.
- You now have a layered dig site where the bones and hammers are dispersed in an unknown pattern! Use the blocker as a **player aid**, and flip the site map over to form the **Score track**.



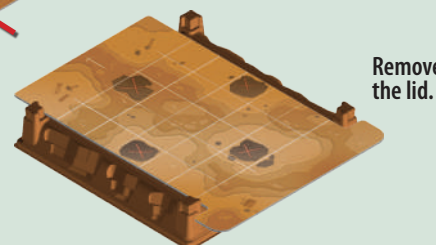
Scatter the bones and hammers in the pits.



Put the lid on and shake gently.



Slide the site map in.



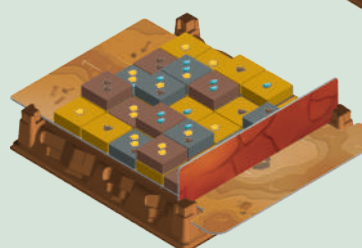
Remove the lid.



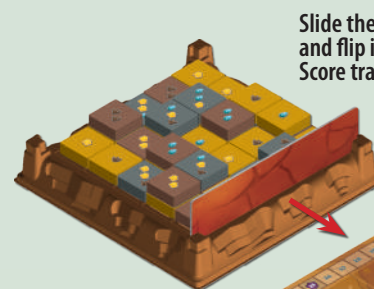
Build the bottom layer. Stone tiles in the 4 marked spots.



Build the top layer. No corners. No Stone on Stone.



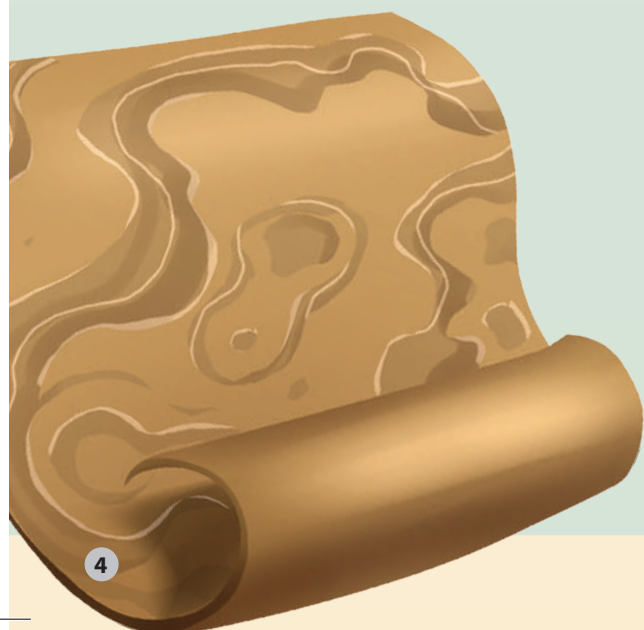
Position the blocker.



Slide the site map out and flip it over as the Score track.



Remove the blocker and flip it over as a player aid!



3. Draw 9 random **Skill tokens** and place them face up on the Skill display. Return the rest to the box.

Directly aggressive Skills feature a ☹️ symbol; if this doesn't suit your group, draw replacements.

4. Shuffle the **Events** deck. Draw three random cards and stack them face down on the Event space without looking at them. Return the rest to the box.

5. Make a supply pile of all **40 Plaster**, then add an amount of Plaster **on top of** the Event stack to form the *Plaster Pool* (the amount is 4 plaster per player). The **Plaster Pool** and the **Plaster supply** must be kept separate. Keep the tweezers nearby.

6. Shuffle the **Dinosaur** deck and make a *Dinosaur display* of 4 face up Dinosaur cards. Keep the deck face down nearby.

7. Shuffle the **Tools** and **Supplies** decks separately. Make a *Market display* of four face up cards; 2 Tools and 2 Supplies. Keep the decks face down nearby.

8. Each player takes the **player mat** and **Paleontologist pawn** of their colour, and places the **scoring marker** of their colour near the start of the score track.

9. Pick a starting player and give them the **Start Player marker**. In **reverse turn order**, the players place their pawns onto a **corner** tile of the dig site. Pawns may not share a tile.

*In a 5-player game only, a player may choose the **center** tile of the site as their starting point.*

Now you are ready to begin!



GAMEPLAY

The game proceeds in clockwise order beginning with the starting player. Play continues until the end game is triggered, then the current round is finished and each player gets one more turn. The player with the highest score wins!

ON YOUR TURN

Your turn has three steps:

1. Spend 4 Energy to take actions.
2. Buy 1 card from the Market.
3. Claim 1 Dinosaur card into your Lab.

**At any point on your turn you may score a Dinosaur in your lab, or score a Dinosaur directly from the display if you have all the bones needed to complete it.*

1. Spend 4 Energy to take actions.

On each turn you start with 4 Energy (✓) points, which you will spend to perform actions. Most actions cost 1 Energy, but a few of them cost more. You may perform actions in any combination, any order, and any number of times, as long as you have the Energy to spend.

You do **not** have to spend all of your Energy. Unspent Energy is lost.

You may **also** use **Tool cards** on your turn (*if you have any*) to carry out their functions. Using Tool cards does **not** cost any Energy. See the **Tool Cards** section on page 8 for details.

ACTIONS

Gain 1 Plaster ✓

Take 1 Plaster from the **Plaster Pool** (*not from the supply*). Keep all Plaster you gain in the *storage area* of your mat.

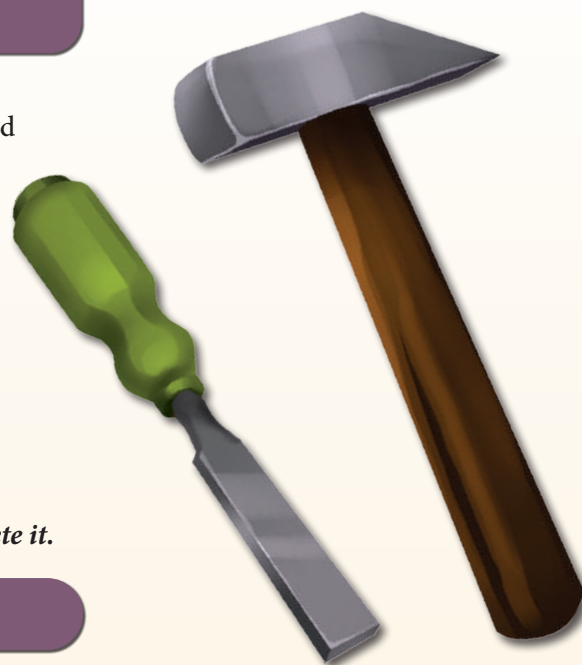
- If the Plaster Pool runs out during your turn, it will trigger the next Event at the end of your turn (see **Events** on page 10).
- If you gain Plaster on your turn for any reason once the Plaster Pool has run out, take from the **supply** instead.

Move 2 spaces ✓

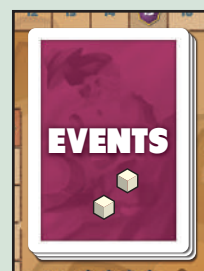
Move your pawn **up to 2 spaces** on the dig site. With each space of movement your pawn may move orthogonally **or** diagonally to an adjacent tile. Your pawn may **pass through** other pawns but you may not **end** your movement on the same space as another pawn. There is no extra cost to move up or down a layer of tiles.

Climb onto the dig site ✓

Your pawn may get pushed off the dig site during play. To climb back on, place your pawn on an unoccupied tile along the **same edge** of the dig site that your pawn fell off; if none of the spaces along that edge have tiles, you must first place a Sand tile so that there is one to climb on to (see **Place 1 Sand tile** on page 7).



The Player Aid will remind you of all of the actions and their Energy costs.



Gain Plaster example:

The Plaster Pool has two Plaster in it. You spend 2 Energy to take both of them, emptying the Pool and triggering the next Event at the end of your turn. You still want more Plaster, so you spend another Energy and take one from the supply.



Moving example:

You want to move closer to the pit with the Rib in it. First you hop up to the Stone tile next to you, then move diagonally to the Sand tile. These 2 spaces of movement cost you 1 Energy total.



Climbing On example:

Someone pushed you off the dig site, so you must climb back on at a cost of 1 Energy. There are only two tiles along the edge of the site you fell off; you could climb onto either of them.

Place 1 Sand tile ✓

Choose any Sand tile you wish from the discard pile and place it onto the dig site. If your pawn is **off** the dig site, the sand tile must be placed along the same edge of the dig site that your pawn fell off. If your pawn is **on** the dig site, you must place the tile orthogonally adjacent to your pawn.

- You may place on another tile, but you may **not** place a tile to make a stack higher than 2 tiles.

Dig 1 tile: Sand ✓ • Clay ✓✓ • Stone ✓✓✓

Slide 1 Terrain tile that is **orthogonally adjacent** to your pawn (or slide the tile that your pawn is standing on) 1 space in any direction you wish. The “heavier” the tile, the more Energy it costs to dig. The sliding tile can **push** any number of other tiles ahead of it, but **only tiles of the same weight or lighter**. Stone can push anything; Clay can push Clay and Sand; Sand can push only Sand.

- 2-tile stacks may **never** be pushed (though the **top** tile of a stack may be slid or pushed off its stack).
- You **may** slide (or push) a tile with a pawn on it; the pawn goes with the tile.
- If any **tile** falls off the dig site as a result of your dig action, you get to **claim that tile**. Tiles have *Fragments* on them that you can spend to buy cards from the Market (see *Buy 1 card from the Market* on page 8).
- If any **pawn** falls off the dig site (including your own, which can happen if you dig the tile you’re standing on), that pawn must stay **off** the dig site (on the side it fell) until the player spends 1 Energy to climb back on (see *Climb onto the dig site* on page 6).



What if a pawn gets pushed?

Pawns may be pushed by sliding tiles (when a top layer tile moves towards a pawn standing on a bottom layer tile). A pushed pawn moves into the next space in the same direction (or off the dig site if it is at the edge).

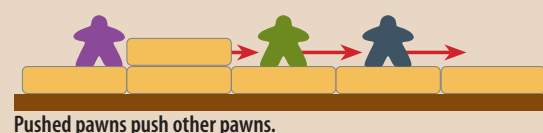
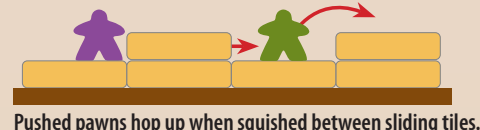
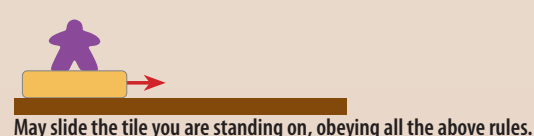
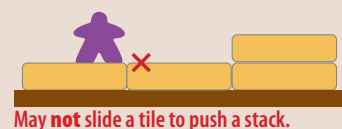
- If a pawn is pushed **into** a pit, the owner fishes it out and places it off the dig site, on any side they wish as if they had fallen off that side.
- If a pawn is pushed so that it would be “squished” between two top-layer tiles, the pawn hops up onto the tile it is being pushed toward.
- If a pawn would be pushed onto the same tile as a **second** pawn, the second pawn is pushed ahead of it into the next space, itself following the rules for when a pawn gets pushed.



Placing Sand example:

You want to move to an area you can’t reach. You spend 1 Energy to take a Sand tile from the discard pile, and you place it to form a bridge that you can now move across!

By spending 1-3 Energy depending on the weight of the first tile you slide, you:



Extracting

If you have enough Plaster, you may extract a bone or hammer from an **open pit** that your pawn is **orthogonally adjacent** to (*the height of the tile stack your pawn is on does not matter*). To extract, spend the amount of Plaster indicated on your player mat, then use the tweezers to extract the bone or hammer. Spent Plaster goes into the supply (*not the Pool*).

When you extract a **bone**, it goes into storage on your player mat. Bones may be kept for their endgame value (*displayed on your mat*), but they are more valuable if you can assign them to particular Dinosaurs that need them. You may **assign a bone** from your storage to the Dinosaur card that is **in your lab** whenever you want, but once a bone is assigned, it may **not** be removed.

When you extract a **hammer**, you **must** swap it for a Skill token from the Skill display, and add the token to the leftmost empty Skill slot of your player mat (*imagine that you have returned a lost tool to its owner, who teaches you a skill in gratitude*). Covering up the  symbols in the 2nd and 3rd slots means that you won't earn those points at the end of the game, so be sure you really want that Skill! When you gain a Skill token, you **immediately** gain the benefit described on the token for the remainder of the game.

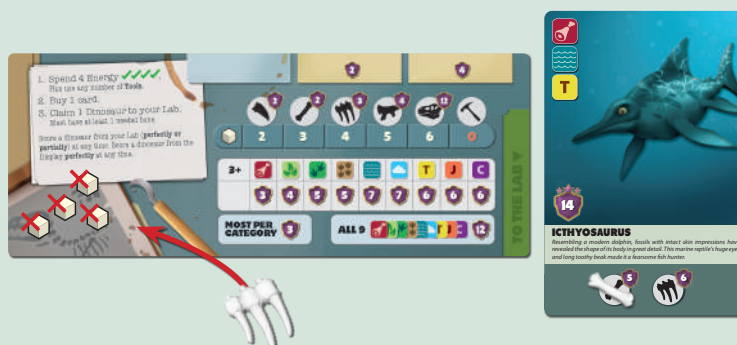


ONE HAMMER PER TURN ONLY!

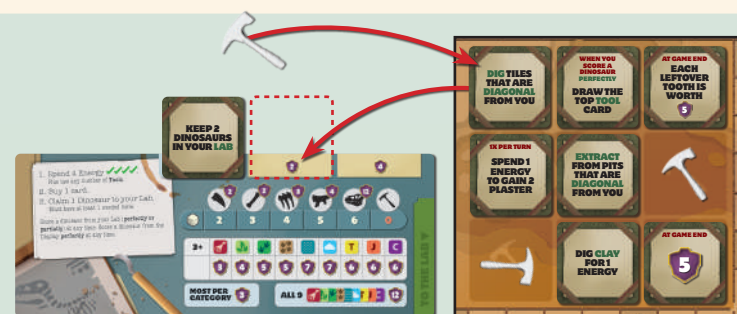
Hammers are easy to extract since they don't cost any Plaster. But you may only extract a **maximum of 1 Hammer** (*plus any number of bones*) on a single turn.



For example, it costs 4 Plaster to extract Ribs, or 0 Plaster to extract a Hammer.



For example, you have just spent 4 Plaster to extract a Rib. The Rib goes right into the storage area on your mat. The **Ichthyosaurus** card in your lab (which already has a Limb assigned to it) **does** need a Rib, so you could assign the Rib to that card whenever you want by placing it there.



For example, you have just extracted a Hammer (for 0 plaster). You choose a new Skill from the display and swap the Hammer with it. You already have a Skill from earlier, so the new one you choose will go into the next skill slot on your player mat, covering up the  there.

Tool Cards



You may use any number of **Tools cards** on your turn (*if you have any*) to carry out their functions. Each Tool describes how it works. Using a Tool does **not** cost any Energy.

- Unlike the normal Dig actions, Tools that let you slide or remove tiles do **not** require your pawn to be adjacent to the affected tile; you can affect tiles from any distance.
- Similar to the normal Dig actions, you gain any tile that is removed or slid off the board by a Tool effect; the Fragment symbols on tiles can be used to buy cards from the Market later in your turn.
- If a pawn (*even your own*) is **on** a tile that you remove, the pawn's owner places it off the dig site on any side they wish. That player will need to spend 1 Energy on their turn to climb back on (*see Climb onto the dig site on page 6*).
- You may hold any number of unused Tool cards.
- When you use a Tool, flip it face down. You will score the  displayed on **all** of your Tools at the end of the game whether you used them or not.

2. Buy 1 card from the Market

You may spend the Fragments on your collected tiles to buy 1 card from the Market... either a **Tools** card or a **Supplies** card. Each card displays its cost in fragments at the bottom. Whichever one you buy, replace it in the display with a card from the matching deck. Spent tiles go into the discard pile.

- If you are forced to “overpay” for a card because of how your fragments are split up on your tiles, you do **not** get change.

TOOLS

Tools are action cards that you can save to use during the action step of a future turn (*but not on **this** turn, as the action step of your turn is already over*). They also may provide endgame points.

When you gain a Tool, keep it face up to show that it hasn't been used yet. Each Tool card describes its effect.

SUPPLIES

Supplies gain you some combination of Plaster, bones, and endgame points. Take any Plaster **immediately** from the Pool (*or from the supply if the Pool runs out, triggering an event as normal*). Flip the card face down unless it grants you a bone.

If the card grants you a bone, keep the card face up beside your mat; treat the card as if it were a bone in your storage.

If there happens to be a bone matching the one shown on the card in the discard pile, flip the card face down and take that bone from the discard into your storage instead; it's easier to manage that way.



Amber



Footprint



Egg



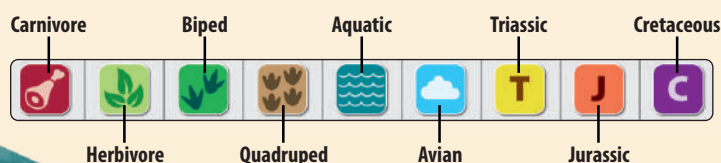
Wild

Any fragment may be used here.

3. Claim a Dinosaur card into your Lab

If there isn't currently a Dinosaur in your lab and you have **at least one** of the required bones of a displayed Dinosaur in your storage, you may **claim that Dinosaur** from the display into your lab. When you claim a Dinosaur, you **must** immediately assign at least one bone from your storage to it, placing it on the Dinosaur card.

- You may only have 1 Dinosaur in your lab at a time.
- If there **is** a Dinosaur in your lab and you want to claim one from the display, you **must first** score the Dinosaur in your lab to clear it away (see *Scoring a Dinosaur* below).
- Keep an eye not only on the bones and  value of a Dinosaur when you're choosing it, but also on its *characteristics*; each Dinosaur has three characteristics that will provide valuable end game scoring (see *Final Scoring* for details).



For example, you have a Tooth in your storage and no Dinosaur in your lab, so you could claim a Dinosaur from the display.

Two of the Dinosaurs in the display need a Tooth: The *Apatosaurus* and the *Deinonychus*. You could claim either one of those into your lab and place the Tooth onto it.

You decide to claim the *Deinonychus* since it has a higher Perfect Score, and you like the characteristics it provides.

SCORING A DINOSAUR

There are two ways to score a Dinosaur: from your **lab**, or from the **display**.

At any point on your turn, you may score a Dinosaur **from your lab**.

- If the Dinosaur has **all** of the required bones, immediately gain the **Perfect Score** shown on the card.
- If it does **not** have all of the required bones, you may still perform a **Partial Score**: immediately score **only** the values of each bone you **have** assigned to the Dinosaur, as displayed on the card.

At any point on your turn, you may score a Dinosaur **directly from the Dinosaur display** (skipping your lab altogether even if there's a Dinosaur in it), but **only** if you have **all of the required bones in your storage**. Immediately score the **Perfect Score** shown on the card, claim the Dinosaur card face down in front of you, and draw a fresh Dinosaur from the deck to add to the display.

- It is possible to score multiple Dinosaurs on the same turn.
- However you score, immediately reflect the earned points by moving your scoring marker. Turn the scored Dinosaur face down into your "scored" pile. Discard any bones you used.



Perfect Score 21

ARIZONASAURUS
Its long, squat body bore a prominent, bony tail likely used to regulate body heat. The animal was composed of a series of neural spines from its vertebrae. Named for the state where it was first discovered.

Bone values for Partial Scoring: 4 (Tooth), 4 (Hip), 7 (Tooth)

For example, you've already got a Tooth and a Hip on the *Arizonasaurus* in your lab. You could score it right now to get a Partial Score of 11 (4 for the Tooth and 7 for the Hip), or you might want to see if you can hunt down the second Tooth you need to earn a Perfect Score of 21.

Perfect scores are far higher than Partial scores even if you added all of the needed bone values together... but sometimes you want to hurry a Dinosaur out of your lab so that you can claim another, or maybe you're just trying to complete many Dinosaurs!

EVENTS

An Event is triggered when the Plaster Pool runs out. Give the next Event card (*still face down*) to the active player until the end of their turn. When **the turn is over**, they reveal the Event card and carry out its instructions.

- The "active player" mentioned on many Events is the player who triggered the Event.
- Any Plaster gained during an event will come from the **supply**, since there is currently no Pool.

After the Event is resolved, replenish the Plaster Pool from the supply with 4 Plaster per player. This replenishment **does** happen after the third Event card is resolved, meaning that after the third Event there will be **one final Plaster Pool** before the end game is triggered.

*There will be **four full Plaster Pools** total over the course of the game.*

GAME END

Once the **fourth and final** Plaster Pool runs out, **finish the current round** (use the Start player marker to figure out where the round ends), then play **one last round** so that each player gets **one final turn**. Then the game ends and final scores are calculated!

Any Plaster gained after that final Pool runs out is taken from the supply.



FINAL SCORING

You will likely have gained some points during the game, mostly from scoring Dinosaurs. Now score the categories below **in order**, to add to your final score!

1 Final Dinosaurs. If there is a Dinosaur remaining in your lab, score it now (*Partially or Perfectly, whichever you can manage*). You may add needed bones to it now from your storage, if you have them.

2 Empty Skill Slots. If you have any empty Skill slots that show , score the displayed amount.

3 Skill scores. Some Skills grant points at endgame.

4 Leftover bones. Leftover bones in your storage are worth points as displayed on your mat.

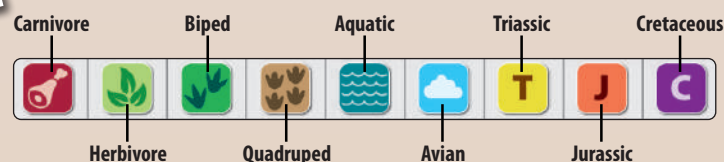
- *Skulls aren't needed by any Dinosaur, so this is the only time they'll score.*

5 Leftover Plaster. Gain  for every 2 Plaster you still hold, ignoring remainders.

6 Market cards. Reveal **all** of the Tools and Supplies cards that you purchased over the course of the game. Many **Tools cards** (whether they were used or not) and **Supplies cards** award points. Score them now.

7 Characteristic Sets. Reveal your collection of scored Dinosaurs. For **each characteristic** that you have at **least 3 of**, score its displayed set value.

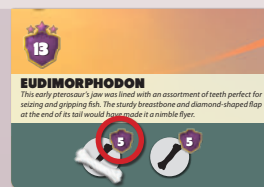
For example the set value for Bipeds is .



8 Variety. If you have **at least one of all 9 characteristics** in your Dinosaur collection, score .

9 Majorities. As the final step of scoring, go through each characteristic one by one and compare your collections. (For example, first each player calls out how many Carnivores they have.) For each of the 9 characteristics, the single player with the **most** of that symbol gets . If there is a tie for most in a category, nobody scores for that category.

1



The *Eudimorphodon* in your lab has a single Limb assigned to it. Unfortunately you have no other Limb in storage to complete it for a Perfect score, but you still score it Partially for the bone value of .

2



Your one empty Skill slot is worth , and you have a Skill that earns you .

4



Your 2 leftover Skulls and 1 Tooth score a massive .

5

 Your 5 leftover plaster is worth .

6



The combined score from your four Market cards is .

7



Your collection of six scored Dinosaurs (which includes the *Eudimorphodon* you scored after the game ended) scores:

-  for your Carnivore set
-  for your Biped set
-  for your Jurassic set
-  for variety because you have at least 1 symbol of all 9 characteristics!

Let's say you were the player with the most Carnivores, Bipeds, and Triassic Dinosaurs... you would score  for each, for a total of 9 more points.

Once final scoring is complete, the player with the most points wins!

In the event of a tie, the tied player with more Dinosaurs in their collection wins. If that's also a tie, the tied players share the victory!

FOSSILIS AT A GLANCE

The entire game explained in one simple page.

SETUP

Set 3 **Sand** aside. Prepare the **Dig Site**. 9 **Skill tokens** in the display. 3 random **Events** face down. Make a **Plaster** supply, put 4 per player in the **Plaster Pool**. Make a **Dinosaur display** of 4 cards and a **Market** of 2 **Tool** and 2 **Supplies** cards; shuffled decks nearby. Players get **mats**, put **score markers** on track at zero. Pick a **Start player** and in reverse order place **pawns**.

ON YOUR TURN

1. Spend 4 Energy  to perform actions, plus use **Tools** for free.

- ✓ Gain 1 **Plaster** (*Event at turn end if Pool runs out*).
- ✓ Move 1-2 spaces (*Diagonal permitted*).
- ✓ Climb on to the dig site (*Same side you fell off*).
- ✓ Place 1 **Sand** (*Adjacent to you if you're on the site, along your site edge if you're off it*).
- ✓ Dig **Sand** • ✓✓ Dig **Clay** • ✓✓✓ Dig **Stone**.
Slide adjacent tile in straight line, pushing tiles of same weight or less. Claim tiles that fall.
- ✓ Spend **Plaster** to extract bones and/or hammer (*Maximum 1 hammer*).
Put bones in storage or assign to Dino in lab, swap hammer with Skill from display.

2. Buy 1 card from the **Market**

Spend collected tiles. **Supplies** give **Plaster** from **Pool** and/or bones. Save **Tools** for later use.

3. Claim 1 **Dinosaur** to your **Lab**

Must have empty lab and at least 1 needed bone. Refresh display.

SCORING DINOSAURS

Score a **Dinosaur** from your lab (*Perfectly or Partially*) at any time. Score a **Dinosaur** from the **Display** (*Perfectly*) at any time.

EVENTS & ENDGAME

When **Plaster Pool** runs out, **Event** is triggered. Resolve at turn end, then refresh **Plaster Pool**. After **fourth** **Pool** runs out, finish the round. Then take **one more turn each**, and end the game.

FINAL SCORING

Add to points scored during game: Score **Dino in lab**. Score empty **Skill slots** and **Skill bonuses**. Score **leftover bones** as displayed. Score 1 point for every 2 **leftover Plaster**. Score **Market cards** as displayed. Score your **Dino collection**: As displayed for **characteristic sets** of 3 or more; 12 points if you have **all nine** characteristics; 3 points for each **characteristic majority** you have. Highest score wins!

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