Sorting Fossils Station

Directions: (Work as one team of scientists.)

1. Discuss as a group which fossils should be collected into groups.
2. GENTLY move the fossils into groups on the desk.
3. Use a black marker to clearly write your sorting criteria for each of the groups onto a notecard.
4. Place the notecards near the appropriate groups of fossils.
5. Write ALL the names of the members of your team on one notecard with marker. Place it where it can be seen with the fossils.
6. Take a photo of your sorted fossils. (Be sure the labels are in focus and large enough to read in the photo.)

Extra Time?
Sort the fossils by using a different system of grouping, re-label, take a second photograph.

Identifying Molds Station

Directions: (Work as an independent scientist. Each person will be different.)

1. Write your name on the top of a table page.
2. Choose one of the clay molds.
3. Sketch what you see onto the table in the first column.
4. Identify what you think made this mold.
5. Describe characteristics of the object that made this mold that you can OBSERVE from the mold.
6. Hypothesize characteristics of the object, or make inferences about the environment the object comes from, and support your hypotheses with evidence from your observations and prior knowledge.

Extra Time?
Choose another mold and repeat the process.

Making Molds & Casts Station

Directions: (Work as an independent scientist. Each person will be different.)

1. Write your name at the top of a notecard.
2. Choose an item that you would like to use for your mold.
3. Work your clay into a small “pancake” that is big enough to hold an impression of your item.
4. Place your clay pancake on top of your notecard, with your name visible.
5. Firmly press your item into the clay.
6. Gently lift it so that it leaves a clear impression in the clay.
7. Ask your teacher to drip wax into the impression.
8. Place your notecard holding your mold with the wax onto the tray.

Extra Time?
Write a description to explain how this activity relates to fossils.

Desert Fish Cartoon Station

Directions: (Work as pairs of scientists. Each pair will create a shared cartoon.)

Situation: You have just discovered a fossil of a fish in the middle of what is currently a desert!

1. With your partner, brainstorm a sequence of at least 4 events that are likely to have occurred to cause a fish fossil to be in a modern desert. Write them on the “brainstorm” section of your paper.
2. Draw a detailed cartoon strip showing the sequence of events that led to your findings. (This must have at least 4 sections.) BOTH partners should contribute to the drawings.
3. Write both partners’ names on the cartoon paper.

Extra Time?
Color your cartoon strip.

Fish Fossil Sequence Station

Directions: (Work as pairs of scientists. Each pair will create a shared sequence.)

1. With your partner, read a section of the poster. Look for *processes*.
2. Based on what you read, write a numbered list that explains the sequence of the process in your own words. Use complete sentences for this!
3. Give your list a title that identifies the process.
4. Put both partners' names on the paper.

Extra Time?
Find a different process sequence on the poster and repeat this project on the back of your paper.