

## **Fossil Excavation at Home Investigation**

### *Preparing the lab*

It usually takes 3-4 hours to prepare this lab, depending on the size of the container you are using.

Identify items that can be used as fossils:

- Small rocks
- Sea shells
- Shark teeth
- Small plastic toys

Use an ice cube tray, empty plastic container, or other mold to freeze the fossils into an ice cube.

- Start by filling the ice cube tray or container  $\frac{1}{3}$ -  $\frac{1}{2}$  way full of water and place in the freezer.
- Once frozen, carefully place the fossil or item into the container and add more water, filling the container. Place the tray/ container back in the freezer
- Once the items is thoroughly frozen into the middle of the cube, you are ready for excavation.

For large containers, run the exterior of the container under hot water for a few seconds to loosen the cube from the container so it will more easily slide out.