

Sample: Tiered Task Card—Middle School Science (Fossils)

We have been studying fossils in class over the past two weeks. Specifically, we have been looking at the following.

- The difference between the main types of fossils
- What index fossils are and why they are important
- How scientists use fossils to understand the development of life on Earth better

A major fossil discovery was made in Northern Canada in early 2020.

Read more about that discovery here: <https://bit.ly/3SG0Gw6>

Then, see if you can complete each of the following tasks.

Tasks to Complete

DOK Level 1	DOK Level 2	DOK Level 3	DOK Level 4
Recall and Reproduction	Skills and Concepts	Strategic Thinking	Extended Thinking
Task: Can you summarize the fossil discovery made in Northern Canada?	Task: Can you name the type of fossil discovered in Northern Canada? Defend your decision with reasoning. Remember, we have been studying mold fossils, cast fossils, petrified fossils, preserved fossils, carbonized fossils, and trace fossils.	Task: How would you rate the fossil discovery made in Northern Canada? Use a scale from 1 to 5—where one represents not very important and five represents most important fossil discovery ever. Defend your ranking with reasoning.	Task: Find an example of another significant fossil discovery in the last one hundred years. Then, explain why that fossil discovery was even more important than the discovery made in Northern Canada.
You may choose to demonstrate what you know in any of the following ways.			
Write a paragraph	Create a set of Google slides	Record a video	Make a podcast or audio recording
Develop a Venn diagram	Make a graphic organizer	Create a cartoon	Have a debate with a friend

Source: Ferriter, W. M., Mattos, M., & Meyer, R. J. (2025). The big book of tools for RTI at Work. Solution Tree Press.