



Item No.: 601607  
KIN: 161807  
Made in Thailand



**WARNING!**  
Not suitable for children under 3 years. Choking hazard — small parts may be swallowed or inhaled.

**DIGIT!**  
ROCKS! FOSSILS!

- ▶ Excavating fun for children ages 5 and up
- ▶ Contains one of 12 different collectible minerals and fossils



**WARNING:**  
CHOKING HAZARD — Small parts. Not for children under 3 yrs.

## DEAR PARENTS,

Please provide your child with assistance and support when excavating the mineral or fossil. Read the instructions together before starting and follow them carefully. Please ensure that small children are not allowed to handle any of the parts of this kit, especially not the plaster pieces that remain after the excavation.

**WARNING!** Not suitable for children under 5 years. For use under adult supervision. Read the instructions before use, follow them and keep them for reference.

Do not inhale plaster dust or bring it into contact with mouth or eyes. Wash hands after use!

Keep the packaging and instructions as they contain important information.

We reserve the right to make technical changes.

## HERE'S HOW

Your excavation kit consists of a chisel tool as well as a plaster block that contains a mineral or fossil inside it. You will also need a cup of water. Before you begin excavating, set up your work area: Spread a few layers of newspaper on a tabletop. As pieces of plaster might fall on the floor and water might spill, make sure that it won't matter if the surrounding area gets a little messy.



Place the block in the cup of water for a few minutes. The plaster material to be excavated will soften. The longer it stays in the water, the softer the material becomes and the easier it is to dig it out. At first, you can only soften the outermost layer. Once you've removed that layer, you can soften the inner layers and keep working toward the center of the block.



Dig your way to the mineral or fossil inside the block by using the chisel to scrape away at the plaster. As soon as you hit the stone, start working very carefully and gradually remove it from the final layers of plaster. As a final step, you can completely remove the mineral or fossil from the last bits of plaster residue by holding it under running water. Then rinse it well.

**You can find out what the mineral or fossil in your block is by comparing it with the profiles on the back side. There are a total of 12 different minerals and fossils. Collect them all!**



If any parts of this kit are defective, please contact Thames & Kosmos customer service.

1st Edition 2016  
© 2016 Franckh-Kosmos Verlags-GmbH & Co. KG, Stuttgart, Germany  
This work, including all its parts, is copyright protected. Any use outside the specific limits of the copyright law without the consent of the publisher is prohibited and punishable by law. This applies specifically to reproductions, translations, microfilming, and storage and processing in electronic systems and networks. We do not guarantee that all material in this work is free from copyright or other protection.  
Project management and text: Dr. Mark Bachofer  
Technical product development: Elena Ryvkin  
Photos, layout, and typesetting: Friedrich Werth, Horb  
Printed in Thailand  
1st English Edition © 2018 Thames & Kosmos, LLC, Providence, RI, USA  
Thames & Kosmos® is a registered trademark of Thames & Kosmos, LLC.  
Editing: Ted McGuire; Additional Graphics and Layout: Dan Freitas and Mark Geary; Translation: David Gamon  
Distributed in North America by Thames & Kosmos, LLC, Providence, RI 02903; Phone: 800-587-2872; Web: www.thamesandkosmos.com  
Distributed in United Kingdom by Thames & Kosmos UK LP, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3HE; Phone: 01580 713000; Web: www.thamesandkosmos.co.uk  
We reserve the right to make technical changes.  
Printed in Thailand

## AMETHYST

Amethyst is a purple gemstone of the quartz variety. Particularly beautiful forms can be found inside the cavities of round rock formations known as geodes.



## AVENTURINE

The green stone aventurine is also a type of quartz. It is often used for jewelry, while larger pieces of it can be turned into tabletops, boxes, or vases.



## QUARTZ

Quartz is the crystalline form of silicon dioxide, of which many types of rocks and minerals are composed. In its pure form without inclusions (a material trapped inside a mineral during its formation), quartz is transparent and is called clear quartz or rock crystal. If air or other substances become trapped inside it, quartz can be milky or colored.



## ROSE QUARTZ

This quartz is a milky pink color due to the inclusion of a reddish substance. It is often used for jewelry and art objects.



## RED JASPER

Jasper is also a type of quartz. There are many different color variations, often banded or flecked with different colors. The name is Greek and means "speckled."



## PYRITE

This mineral is often called fool's gold. It consists of iron and sulfur that forms cube-shaped or polygonal crystals with a metallic sheen.



## SNOWFLAKE OBSIDIAN

Black obsidian is a glassy volcanic rock. The "snowflakes" on its surface are formed by small inclusions of a bright quartz mineral.

## PISOLITE

This limestone contains many globular inclusions, called "pisoids" (pea-like structures) that have formed as layers around a core, which is usually a grain of calcium carbonate.



## SCLERACTINIA

Coral reefs are formed from the limestone skeletons of marine animals that died long ago. The star-shaped structures of these primeval underwater colonies have been well preserved in the fossil record.

## AMMONOIDEA

Snails are one of the oldest life forms in the primordial seas. In fossils you can recognize very tiny snail shells of various shapes and sizes.



## PETRIFIED WOOD

Petrified wood forms when silicic acid accumulates in a dead tree trunk or branch and becomes crystallized. Petrified wood structures are often so well preserved that the type of tree that the stone comes from can be identified.



## CRINOIDS

In fossils of sea lilies and comatulida, or feather stars, you often find ring-shaped structures where you can see the ancient marine animals' stems, arms, and feather-like appendages, known as pinnules.

