

## CAST PAINTING

### REMEMBER:

- casts take about two days to dry
- casts are fragile
- keep your "My Cast" card with your cast as a record of its name, age, and the location of where it was found
- be creative and have fun!

### PAINTING IDEAS

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Use one or a combination of the following painting techniques to decorate your casts as part of a class art project or at home.

Acrylic and water-based paint, such as tempera, work best for painting casts. Watercolours and oil-based paint do not give the desired effect.

#### For a realistic looking cast:

- always thin your paints by adding water
- use tans, browns, and greys
- brush paint mixture evenly over the cast to create a wash
- use different colours on different parts of the cast (for example, paint the rock and fossil parts of the cast different colours)
- use darker and lighter shades of one colour on the fossil area for a realistic appearance
- use a lighter shade to highlight the protruding portions of the fossil area and darker shades in the deeper cracks

#### For a bright and colourful cast:

- always thin your paints by adding water
- use different colours on different parts of the cast (for example, paint the rock and fossil parts of the cast different colours)
- remember, tempera paints blend very easily to make brown (let bright coloured layers dry slightly before painting another colour on top)
- try using food colouring instead of paint.
- for a lively effect, add some glitter!

#### \*Painting Tips:

- to avoid brush strokes try using your fingers instead of a brush
- look up photographs of fossils to get ideas for realistic colours and shades
- use a sponge or paper towel to dab and smudge the paints for better blending

### TEXTURE IDEAS

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Using one of the above painting suggestions, begin by painting the fossil portion of the cast.

#### Glue and Sand: This method will give the illusion that the fossil is encased in sandstone.

- for the sandstone effect, paint the rock portion of the cast an earthy colour and let it dry
- apply watered-down glue to rock portion of cast
- sprinkle on sand and let it dry
- finally, shake off the excess

#### \*Texture Tips:

- use glue that dries clear
- instead of painting the rock, try adding paint to colour the glue