WSC National Fossil Day 2020@ HOME
Permian Reef Box

Gathering Supplies:
Small Box
Scissors
Pipe Cleaners, Colored Paper, Tissue Paper
Glue or Tape
Paint or Markers

Happy National Fossil Day!™

This year’s art work for the National Park Service’s logo celebrates the prehistoric life of a Permian Reef. The fossils are from the Guadalupe and Glass Mountains in west Texas and New Mexico and date to 299 to 252 million years ago!

What is now a warm and dry environment was once an ocean reef with a diverse ecosystem.

For more information on the different fossils shown in this year’s art work visit their website at https://www.nps.gov/articles/fossils-of-the-2020-national-fossil-day-artwork.htm
Explore some of the fossils of the Permian reef with Max while you make your own Permian Reef Box.

Picture of Max and El Capitan Mountain while visiting Guadalupe Mt. National Park.

**Try This: Making Your Own Permian Reef Box!**

Find a small box or shoe box for your Permian Reef.

To make the different types of corals, sponges, crinoids and other sea life use pipe cleaners and tissue paper to create their different colored shapes. You can also try drawing the different sea life on paper, color and then cut them out. Leave an extra space under your shape on the paper so you can fold it and use the tab to attach your shape into the box. Get creative! Try adding a trilobite or brachiopod, or maybe a nautiloid or two like in the NPS Fossil Day artwork!

Before filling your box with ancient life give it a coat of paint. Using different shades of blue mixed together will help give it depth and dimension.

Then fill with all of your Permian sea life!
Want to explore some of the fossils from your Permian Reef?

**Brachiopod** - Bivalved animals like clams. Some have specialized spines!

**Bryozoans** - Net-like structures that sweep the ocean water for food particles.

**Rugose coral** - With skeletons made of calcite, this coral was at home on the sea floor and in reefs.

**Sponge** - Fossils in many different shapes with over 60 species found at Guadalupe Mt. National Park. Some flat shaped, others like tubes, or bags.

**Helicoprion Shark** - Also known as a "buzztooth shark" because of its unique spiral shaped set of teeth. Sharks' skeletons are made of cartridge which doesn't fossilize like bone so only the teeth are usually found, like these strange looking teeth!