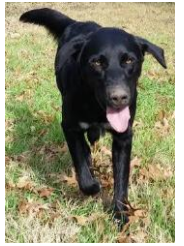


Greetings from Texas!

My name is Cindy. I am glad to share some of my fossils with you! I love fossils so much that I cannot seem to go for a walk without inspecting the rocks by my feet. Buck, my labrador retriever, gets frustrated when I slow down to look at the ground.



Back in the 4th grade, I became fascinated with fossils in my home state of Maine. Every time my family went on a roadtrip, I would beg my Dad to pull over on the side of the highway so I could look through the rubble. I imagined discovering a fern leaf fossil or remains of an ancient creature.

We did not stop at spots with busy traffic, loose sand or fallen rocks because it was not safe. I never found a fossil when I was young, even after all the time I spent inspecting rocks.

Once I became a Mom, I planned many rockhounding trips with my children. Luckily for me, they enjoy fossil hunting too!



HUNTING FOR FISH FOSSILS IN WYOMING

Here we are in Wyoming searching for fish fossils! We found many wonderful specimens and display them in our living room on a shelf.

TRILOBITE FROM UTAH

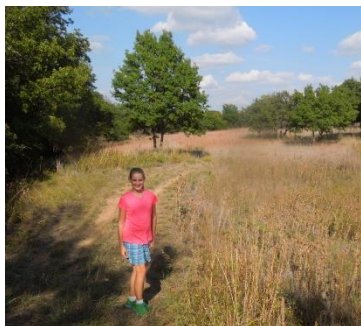


Another fun trip took us to Utah where we separated layers of shale to find **trilobites**. I remember it being extremely hot that day. Looking for fossils can sometimes be a messy and exhausting hobby! I enjoy it so much that I don't mind getting my pants dusty or my hands dirty.

We lived in California for almost 17 years and spent lots of time panning for gold, digging for geodes and searching for gems. On the beach we found **petrified whale bone**. Can you see how the texture of the whale bone rock is different from other rocks?



PETRIFIED WHALE BONE



TEXAS PLAINS WHERE EROSION EXPOSED MARINE OYSTER FOSSILS FROM THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD

My youngest daughter is nine years old now and when she was eight she wanted to be a paleontologist and a fashion designer at the same time! Here she is with a skirt she made from plastic bags. She says the skirt feels like dinosaur skin and the top of the outfit resembles dinosaur feathers.



DINO FASHION!

I hope you enjoy studying fossils. It is fun to explore the earth and imagine what the world looked like millions of years ago.

Good luck on your own adventures!

We will be in Arkansas this year hunting for diamonds!

Cindy Rajhel

Home Grown Fun™

If you would like to share your fossil pictures and stories with us, and have them published on our website, please email Cindy for instructions. EMAIL ADDRESS: homegrownfunfamily@gmail.com