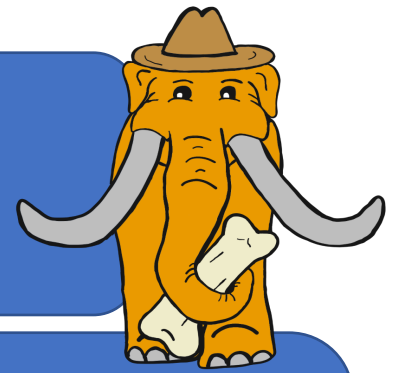


# Science Saturday @ HOME

## Excavating a Sloth Site



**Gathering Supplies:**  
Sloth Site Printable  
Colored Pencils

## Paleontologist's Tools of the Trade

Paleontologists find fossils in all kinds of places...buried under many layers of dirt and sand, deep in caves, sometimes even at the bottom of the sea! And since they're very old, fossils are often very fragile, too. There are a lot of tools paleontologists use to safely excavate fossils.

Tools like shovels, trowels, picks, and brushes are used to uncover fossils and clean the dirt off of them. Measuring tapes, levels, notebooks, and cameras are used to measure and record the fossils as they're found.

Tools like plaster of paris and archival boxes help protect fossils during transport, and keep them safe and secure at a museum for study.

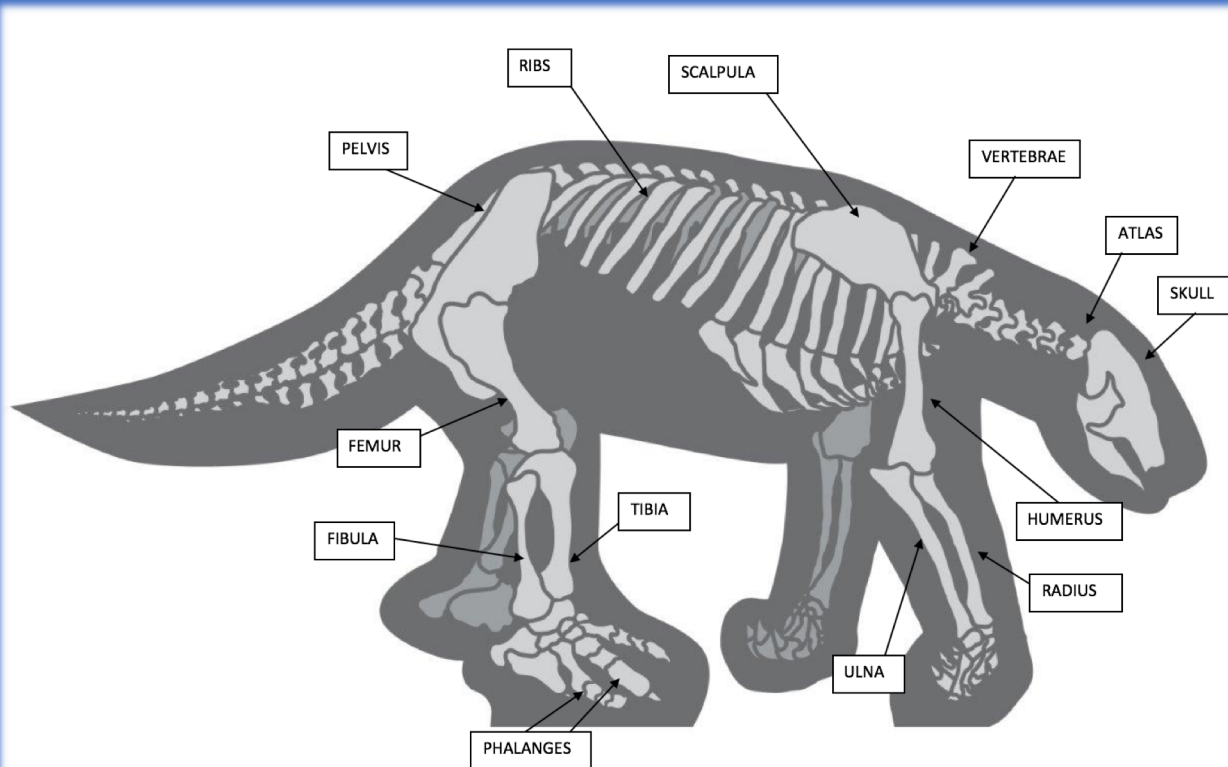
Just as important as the tools paleontologists use are their methods. Excavators carefully and methodically record every aspect of their dig as it progresses, so that nothing gets missed or forgotten. You only ever get one shot to excavate a site in its original condition!



## Try This!

1. Print out the Sloth Site.
2. Use color pencils to see if you can identify the different parts of the giant ground sloth on the excavation map. Color in the different sloth fossils and use the diagram of a ground sloth to help you name the fossil bones.

### Shasta Ground Sloth



#### Shasta Ground Sloth

The Shasta ground sloth is the smallest of the three ground sloths found while making Diamond Valley Lake. All three types of ground sloths became extinct about 10,000 years ago. The Shasta ground sloth weighed over 300 pounds. This sloth walked on the outside edges of its feet. |