



THE MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY PRESENTS: GRID DRAWING IN PALEONTOLOGY

Before starting this activity check out our video about Fossil Preparators and how art is important in fossil preparation!

Paleontologists commonly use a process called grid drawing to make accurate maps of field sites or jackets in the fossil preparation lab. **Grid drawing** means placing a grid over a photo or fossil and using that grid to help you accurately draw the item and keep important data. This method is especially helpful when you're trying to draw a BIG fossil on a small piece of paper!

Instructions

1. Draw a grid on your paper and label each square with a number. Do this on both the grid with the image and the blank grid. Work square by square and copy exactly what is in each box on your original grid.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
A								A
B								B

2. Pick the first square to work on, usually a corner square. Lightly sketch where the image meets the walls of the grid. Fill in the rest of the details in that square. Working one square at a time, transfer the image.



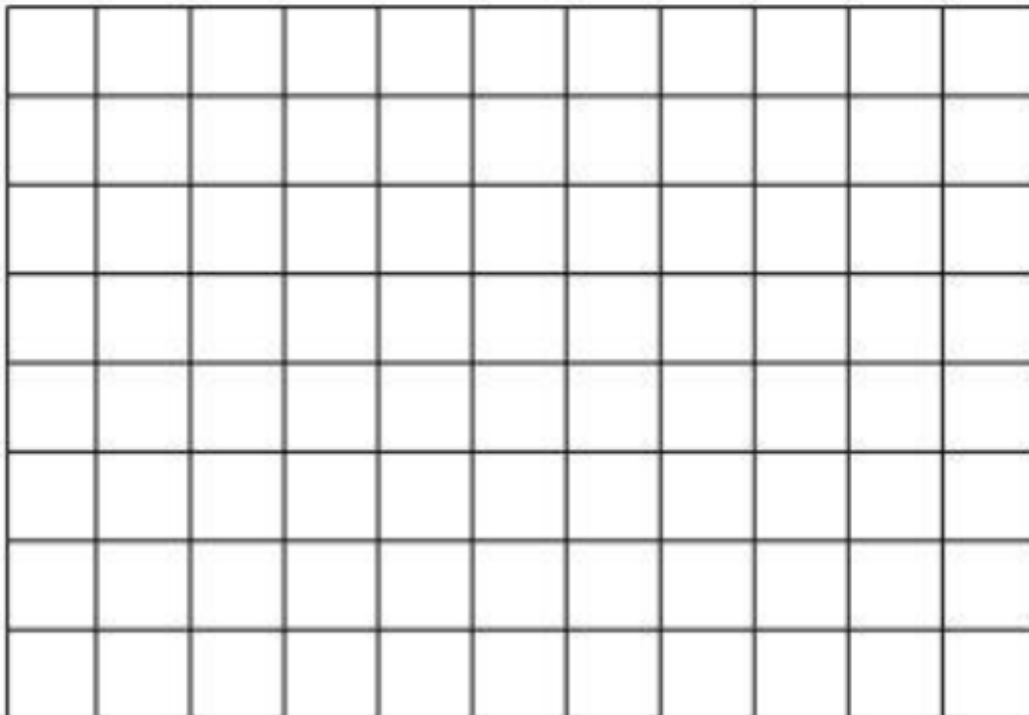
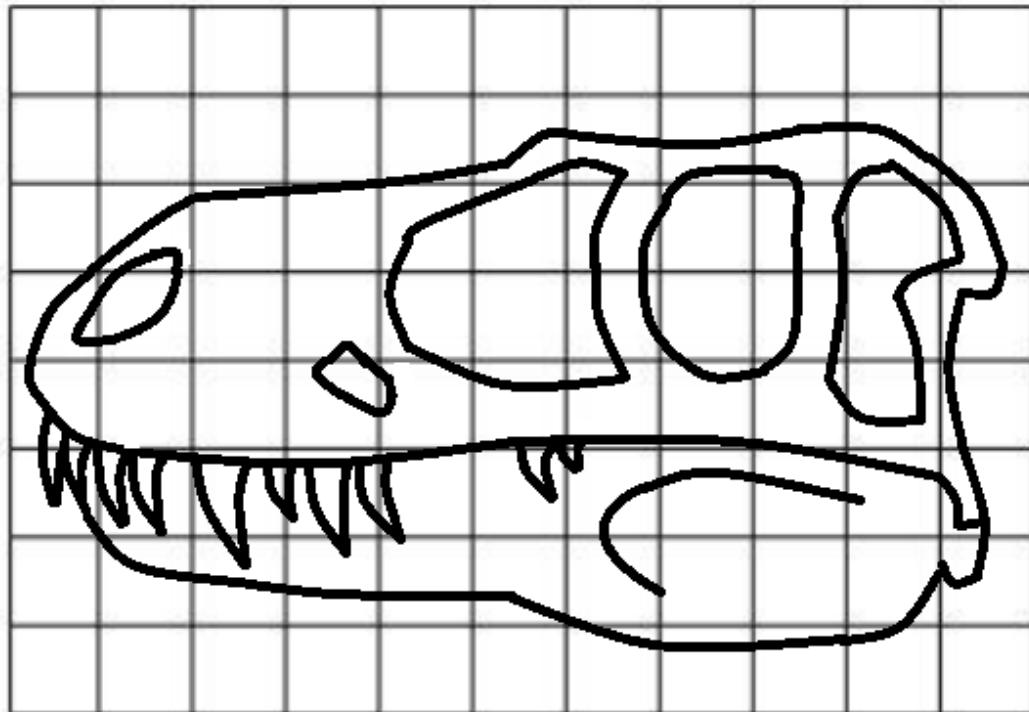
My Drawing



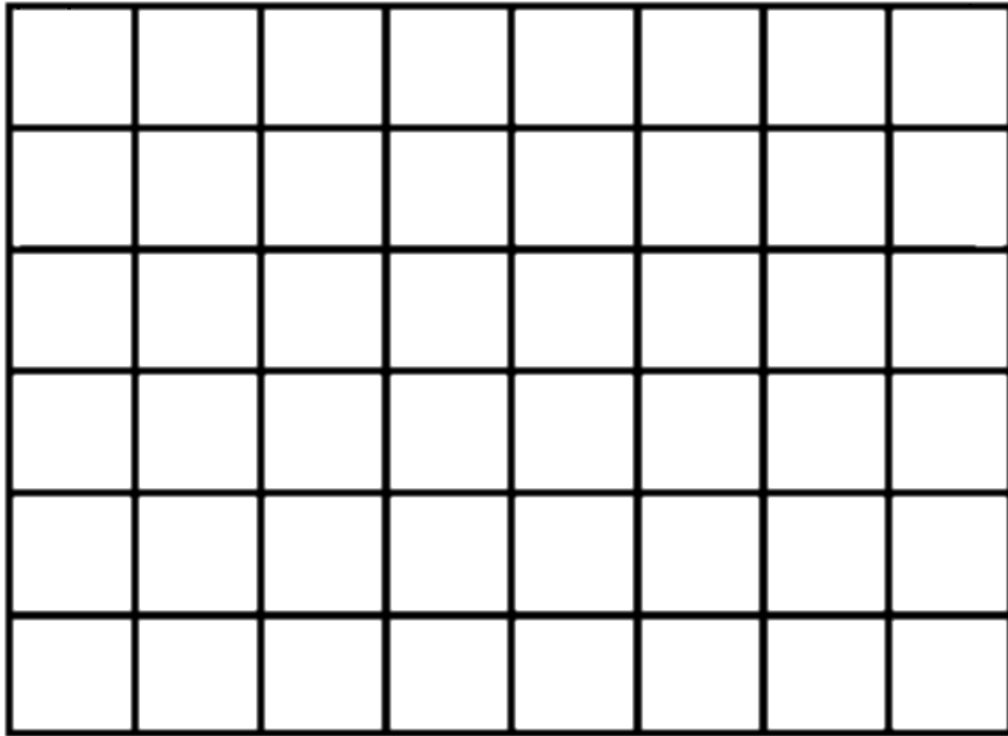
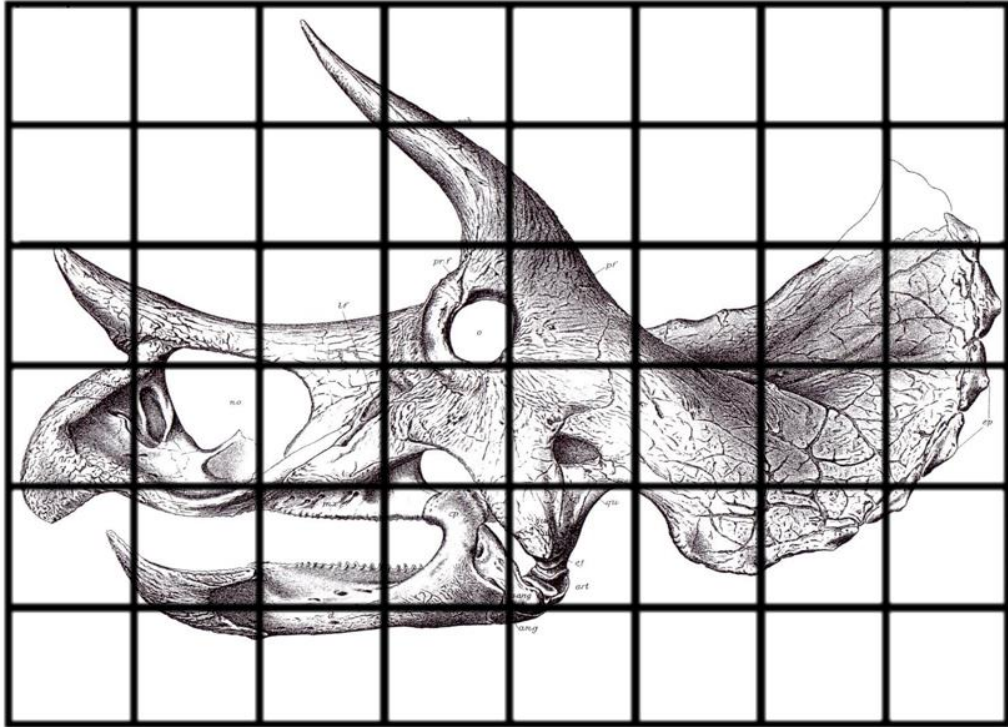
Original

3. Now it's your turn! Practice transferring an image using the grid technique using the following examples. For the first example we'll keep the size the same, just practice using the grid to copy the image!

Gorgosaurus Skull

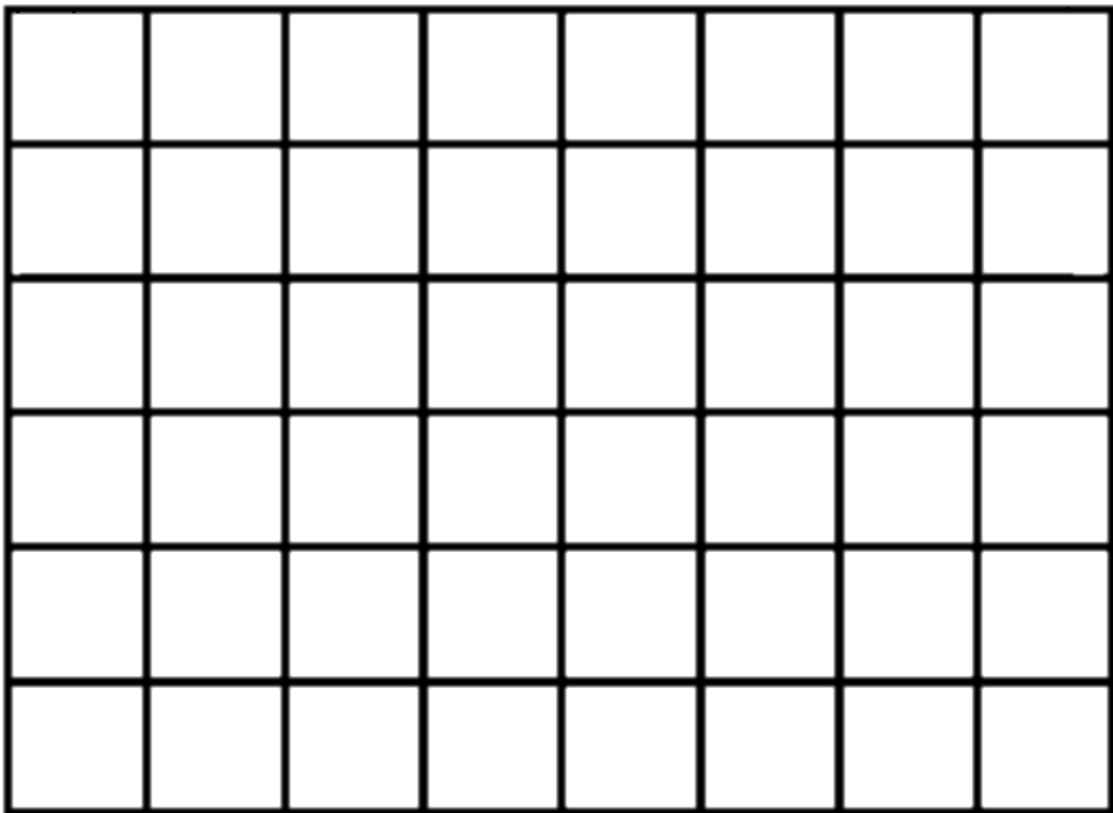


Triceratops Skull



Mosasaur Tail

Challenge: Draw the gridded portion of the mosasaur tail from this small scale to the larger scale below!



For your final challenge use a piece of graph paper to try out the grid method on a flower, rock, or something else you can find in your yard!!