

All About Fossils Group 2

Fossils are shapes in rocks of dead plants and animals that were alive millions of years ago. Usually, when something dies it is eaten or rots away. However, when an animal or plant dies and gets covered over it becomes a fossil millions of years later.

Fossils are important when it comes to evidence about life long ago. Without fossils, we would not even know that dinosaurs ever existed. People who study fossils are called palaeontologists (*pal-li-ent-ologist*). The study of fossils started about 200 years ago, so we have only known about dinosaurs for around 200 years.

How are fossils made?

When a plant or animal dies their body may sink into mud or be covered over by sand. This usually happens at the bottom of the sea. When this happens it does not disappear, water and minerals go into the body and makes a hard shape. Over years and years, the fossil is pressed under more and more layers of sand or mud. After a long, long time (thousands and thousands) the mud or sand becomes sedimentary rock. Finally, over many, many millions of years a fossil has been created and may be discovered one day.

Did you know?

- The word fossil comes from an old word *fossilis*, which means dug up.
- Fossils are only found in sedimentary rock.

So next time you are at the beach, look around carefully, you may just find a fossil that is millions of years old!

Day 1

Read the text x 2. Ask someone to help you echo read. Ask them to read a sentence and then you read a sentence.

Day 2

Find out what these words mean. Write each of these words in a sentence.

1. alive
2. created
3. discovered
4. sink
5. rots

Day 3 Retrieval

Answer the questions carefully. Check the text.

1. How many years does it take for a fossil to be made?
2. Why are fossils important?
3. What is someone who studies fossils called?
4. What type of rock are fossils formed in?
5. Where might you find a fossil?
6. Can you draw a diagram of a fossil?

Day 4 mixed questions

Answer the questions carefully, read the question twice.

True or false

1. Fossils are formed from dead animals or plants.
2. When something dies it always becomes a fossil.
3. A historian studies fossils.
4. It takes around 200 years for a fossil to form.

5. How do you think you would feel if you found a fossil?

Day 5

Imagine you are a palaeontologist. Write a diary from the day that you discover a very rare fossil. Remember to describe what it was like and how you feel.

