

Geography

Read this passage:

Professional fossil hunters (palaeontologists) spend weeks at a time digging through soil, sand, and rock for fossils. To protect the fossils, they scrape away the soil very gently, removing it layer by layer. To find out how to dig for fossils,

What is a palaeontologist?

Describe how they dig through soil in your own words.

RECONSTRUCTING THE PAST

Digging for fossils is only one part of a palaeontologist's job. When a skeleton has been excavated, the palaeontologist must put together the pieces of the skeleton like a jigsaw puzzle. The bones are analysed for any signs of disease or injury, and the rock around the bones is searched for clues about when and where the animal or person lived, and the probable cause of death.

Fossil rhinoceros ►

Palaeontologists excavate a 10-million-year-old rhino in Nebraska, USA. It was killed by a volcanic ash cloud, which hardened around the body, preserving it.



In your own words - tell me what you remember about a paleontologist's job:

Click here when you are done

