Extensive reading: Fossils

1 **Look at the pictures. What can you see?**

2 **Listen and read.** 27

What are fossils?

What do you know about life on Earth thousands of years ago? Fossils give us some clues. Fossils are shapes in rocks that show the animals and plants that lived at this time.
To be a fossil, the shape has to be at least ten thousand years old. Sometimes fossils show the shape of the animal or its bones. Other fossils show an animal's footprints, eggs or nest. Some fossils are 500 million years old.

Why are fossils important?

Fossils tell us about the past. We can learn about types of rocks and we can learn about animals that lived a very long time ago.

Where can you find fossils?

You can find fossils in most parts of the world. You can find them on mountains and in seas. You can find them in deserts and on beaches. You can also find them under the ground. Sometimes people find them when they are digging up roads or building houses.

How can I see fossils?

You can visit museums to look at fossils, or you can buy them at special fossil shops. You can also look for your own fossils, especially on the beach or on rocks.

Whales in the desert

Where is the best place to look for whale fossils? The sea or on beaches is the most obvious answer. But in 2011, scientists found the skeletons of 20 whales in the desert in Chile, one of the driest places on Earth.
The fossils are between two and seven million years old and are very big – some are the size of a bus! Why were there whales in the desert? Scientists think that in the past this part of the desert was a sea or a very big lake.

3 **Read again and write *T* (true) or *F* (false).**

1 Fossils are at least one thousand years old. _____
2 You can find fossils at the beach. _____
3 You can't buy fossils. _____
4 There were whales in the desert in Chile. _____

4 **Ask and answer.**

1 Where can you find fossils in your country?
2 Do you like learning about the past? Why?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 **Underline the girl's name. Find her name in the dinosaur name.**

2 **Listen and read.** 28

Girl's amazing fossil discovery

Scientists who study rocks are called geologists. It is the dream of geologists around the world to find out something new about the past. Scientists were very surprised when this happened to a young girl in England. Daisy Morris, now 10, was walking on a beach with her family.

Suddenly, she saw some black bones sticking out of the sand. She knew it was a fossil and so she dug it out and showed her family. She was only five years old at the time, and she was very interested in fossils.

Her family took the fossil to a geologist called Mr Simpson. Scientists then studied it for five years. Then, in 2013, they told the world that Daisy's fossil was of a flying dinosaur. In fact, it was a flying dinosaur that no one knew existed before, so this dinosaur didn't have a name.

As Daisy discovered the dinosaur, the scientists called it *Vectidraco Daisymorrisae*. This means Daisy Morris Flying Dinosaur. Scientists think it is 250 million years old. Daisy's dinosaur is now in the Natural History Museum in London.

Mr Simpson said, "I knew that I was looking at something very special. And I was right." He was very happy that Daisy found the dinosaur because it was going to be washed into the sea and lost for ever.

All Daisy's family and friends are very proud of her.

Daisy said: "When I told my friends they said it was cool."

Daisy still loves fossils. She has so many that her family says that her bedroom is like a museum. Daisy wants to be a geologist when she grows up.

3 **Read again and answer the questions.**

1 How old was Daisy when she found the fossil?

_____

2 How long did scientists study the fossil for?

_____

3 Where is Daisy's dinosaur now?

_____

4 What does Daisy want to be when she grows up?

_____

4 **Ask and answer.**

1 Are you interested in dinosaurs? Why?

2 Imagine you find a new dinosaur fossil. What is its name?

LIVEWORKSHEETS