

SCIENCE - FOSSILS

5

Fossils are the remains or traces of past life found in sedimentary rock. Scientists called **paleontologists** study fossils.

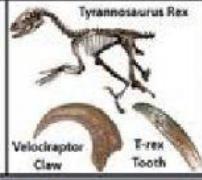
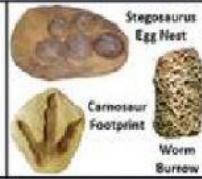
Wood, bones, teeth and shells are **preserved** or saved by being buried. As the sediments harden, the remains become trapped in rock and form fossils.

Some fossils show changes long-dead animals made in their surroundings. These are called **Trace Fossils**. Tracks, burrows, Trace Fossils droppings (coprolite) and worm holes are some examples of trace fossils. They tell how an animal might have moved, how big or small it might have eaten.

A **mold** is an imprint made by the outside of a dead plant or animal. A mold forms when water washes animal or plant remains out of rock. Sometimes sediment or minerals fill a mold and form a **cast**.

Whole plants or animals can become fossilized. These can be trapped by sap from trees (**amber**), glacier ice or tar pits.

When fossils are discovered, they are **excavated** and studied.

Body Fossil	
The remains of actual organisms which include bones, teeth, shells or claws	
Trace Fossil	
A fossilized imprint of an organisms foot prints, trails, burrows, nests or eggs	
Cast Fossil	
A 3-D fossil that forms when a mold fills up with sediment like mud, sand or volcanic ash	

1. What are fossils?

[2]

2. Which of the following items can become a fossil?

- a. plant
- b. snail
- c. fish
- d. all of the above

[1]

3. “**Wood, bones, teeth and shells are *preserved* by being buried.**”

What does it mean to preserve?

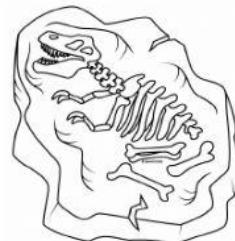
[1]

4. What does the term “**amber**” mean?

_____ [1]

5. A living thing that was “**mummified**” had to be perfectly _____. [1]

- a. dried
- b. wet
- c. buried
- d. petrified



6. What is the name of the **scientist** who study fossils?

_____ [1]

7. “**A mold is an imprint made by the outside of a dead plant or animal.**” How is a mold formed?

_____ [2]

8. Define the term **excavate**.

_____ [1]

9. Using the numbers **1, 2, and 3** show the correct order in which organisms become fossilized. [3]

_____ The sediments harden.

_____ Bones, teeth and shells are buried.

_____ The remains become trapped in rocks.

10. How is a **cast** formed?

_____ [2]

TOTAL MARKS: _____ /15 _____ %

PRIMARY SCIENCE CURRICULUM - FOSSILS