

SCIENCE – FOSSILS

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.

<p><u>Body Fossil</u></p> <p>The remains of actual organisms which include bones, teeth, shells or claws</p>	 <p>Tyrannosaurus Rex Velociraptor Claw T-rex Tooth</p>
<p><u>Trace Fossil</u></p> <p>A fossilized imprint of an organisms foot prints, trails, burrows, nests or eggs</p>	 <p>Stegosaurus Egg Nest Carnosaur Footprint Worm Burrow</p>
<p><u>Cast Fossil</u></p> <p>A 3-D fossil that forms when a mold fills up with sediment like mud, sand or volcanic ash</p>	 <p>Trilobite (Extinct Arthropod) Ammonite (extinct mollusc)</p>

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?

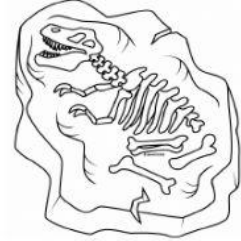
_____ [1]

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