NAME: _____ DATE: _____

SCIENCE – FOSSILS

5

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

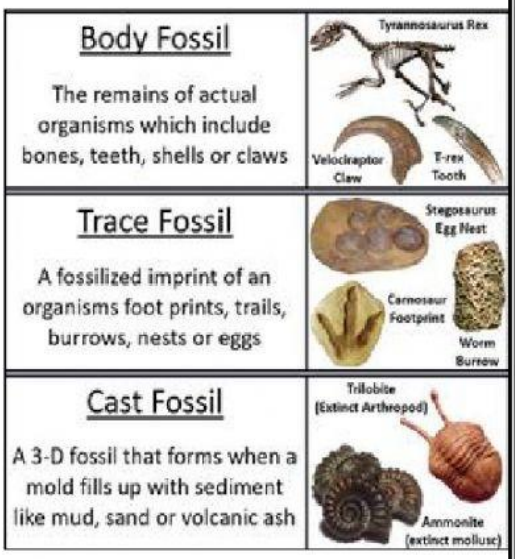
Wood, bones, teeth and shells are **preserved** or saved by being buried. As the sediments harden, the remains become trapped in rock and form fossils.

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.



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]**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. What does the term "***amber***" mean?

_____ **[1]**

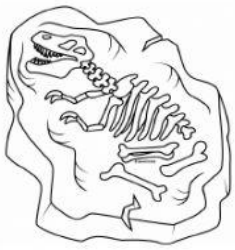
5. A living thing that was "***mummified***" had to be perfectly ____. **[1]**

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS