

Module 1 – Fossils

Student: _____

How do we know what creatures existed on earth?

Fossils

What helped scientists discover what creatures existed before humans?



T-rex dinosaur fossil

VOCABULARY

Match the words with the correct definitions.

Tissue

The hard outer covering of an animal, insect, etc., that protects it

Amber

The material that forms parts of a plant or animal.

Footprints

To be slowly broken down by the natural processes that destroy a dead plant or body.

Shell

A hard orange-yellow substance that can be polished and used for jewelry and other decorations.

Decay

a mark left by a foot or shoe

Module 1 – Fossils

Listen to someone talk about fossils. Answer the questions according to what you hear.

What is a fossil?

A hard orange-yellow substance

Footprints of living things that existed
hard parts of animals

How is a stone fossil formed?

When animals die in a wet environment

When animals live in a wet environment
When animals fly in a wet environment

Where are fossils usually formed? (2
options)

in tree sap

in ice

in the space

Script:

Fossils are the preserved remains of plants and animals that lived long ago. They give scientists clues about the past. Fossils are the footprints of living things that existed. Almost all living organisms can become fossils. A fossil forms when an animal or plant dies in a special wet or muddy environment. Usually, only hard parts of animals such as shells or bones can become fossils, but tracks, eggs, plants, and insects can also leave traces. There are two kinds of fossils:

Stone Fossils: They are formed when animals die in a wet environment. All soft tissues decay. Mud presses on bones, as they decay some minerals get in the spaces and petrify. Some plant and animal traces can also be printed in rock.

Whole body fossils: Some ancient animals are preserved in different ways. Insects that stayed trapped in tree sap that solidifies and becomes amber preserve their bodies. Some great mammals stayed trapped in ice for thousands of years and their bodies are mostly intact.

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