







<p>Under lots of pressure, the new minerals harden into rock.</p> 	<p>The skeleton is covered with sand, earth, rock or seabed before the bones can disappear.</p> 	<p>The earth is eroded away by the weather or the sea. The rock fossil is exposed and discovered.</p> 	<p>An animal dies. Some parts of the body decay and, usually, only the skeleton is left.</p> 	<p>Over a very long time, the bones break down and leave a space in the earth, like an empty mould.</p> 	<p>Minerals slowly fill the space in layers, in the exact shape of the bones.</p> 
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