

## Fossils

Fossils are the remains of once living animals and plants \_\_\_\_\_ (preserved/pickled) in rock. The word fossil comes from the Latin 'fossils', meaning 'dug up from the ground.'

A fossil is \_\_\_\_\_ (sight/evidence) of ancient life naturally preserved in rocks, tar or ice.

Palaeontologists are people who study fossils. They divide them into two major \_\_\_\_\_ (types/species): body fossils and trace fossils.

Body fossils are the \_\_\_\_\_ (leftover/fossilised) remains of an animal or plant, like bones, shells and leaves.

Trace fossils are evidence of animal or plant activity that do not include parts of the animal or plant. These can be \_\_\_\_\_ (bodies/footprints), burrows, gnaw marks in bones, and even poo.

Fossils give us a range of clues about life in the \_\_\_\_\_ (past/future). They can tell us about animal diets and their sizes.

A bite mark in a shell or a bone is a clue that some animals were being \_\_\_\_\_ (predated/captured), or that animals fought. Fossils that were found in the same rock in the same place together can tell us about habitats and food chains.

Fossils provide evidence that helps us to learn about life on Earth in the very distant past. The \_\_\_\_\_ (youngest/oldest) known fossil is approximately 3.6 billion years old. \_\_\_\_\_ (Studying/Cleaning) the fossils of different animals and plants can provide clues about what might happen in the future to plants and animals alive today. Along with \_\_\_\_\_ (rocks/electricity), fossils help us to learn about the environment and how it has changed through time.

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Body fossils are the **fossilised** (leftover/fossilised) remains of an animal or plant, like bones, shells and leaves.

Trace fossils are evidence of animal or plant activity that do not include parts of the animal or plant. These can be **footprints** (bodies/footprints), burrows, gnaw marks in bones, and even poo.

Fossils give us a range of clues about life in the **past** (past/future). They can tell us about animal diets and their sizes. A bite mark in a shell or a bone is a clue that some animals were being **predated** (predated/captured), or that animals fought. Fossils that were found in the same rock in the same place together can tell us about habitats and food chains.

Fossils provide evidence that helps us to learn about life on Earth in the very distant past. The **oldest** (youngest/oldest) known fossil is approximately 3.6 billion years old. **Studying** (Studying/Cleaning) the fossils of different animals and plants can provide clues about what might happen in the future to plants and animals alive today. Along with **rocks** (rocks/electricity), fossils help us to learn about the environment and how it has changed through time.