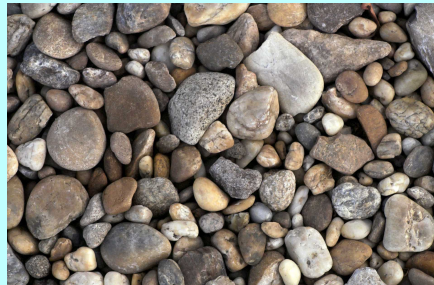


Science



*Our science topic this half term is
rocks and soils.*

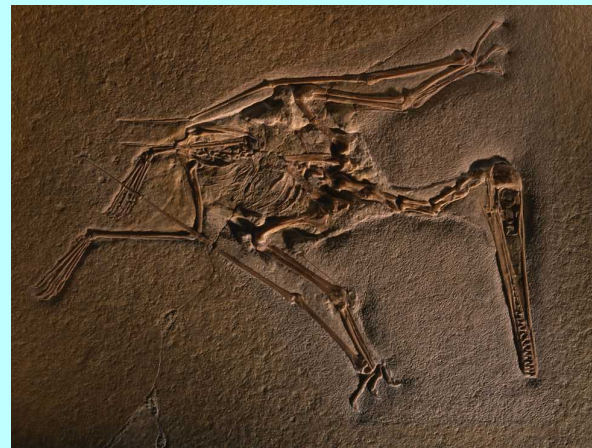


L.O: To understand how fossils are formed

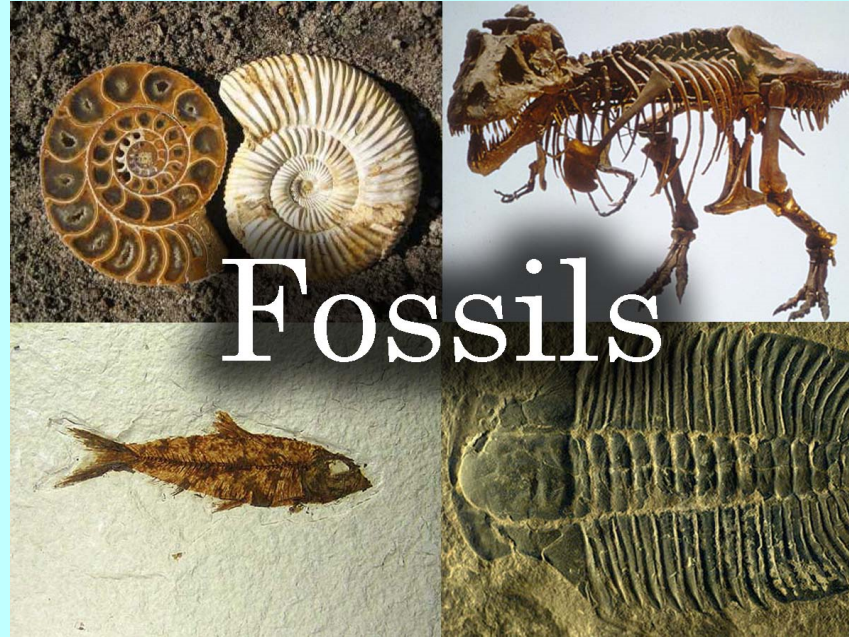
- I can explain what a fossil is
- I can say which living things are found as fossils
- I can describe how fossils are formed

Today we are going to look at fossils and learn about how they are formed.

What is a fossil?



How are fossils formed?



● *BBC bitesize guide*

● *How are fossils formed?*

Fossilisation

A fossil is the preserved remains or traces of a dead organism. The process by which a fossil is formed is called **fossilisation**.

It's very rare for living things to become fossilised. Usually after most animals die their bodies just rot away and nothing is left behind. However, under certain special conditions, a fossil can form.

After an animal dies, the soft parts of its body **decompose** leaving the hard parts, like the skeleton, behind. This becomes buried by small particles of rock called **sediment**.

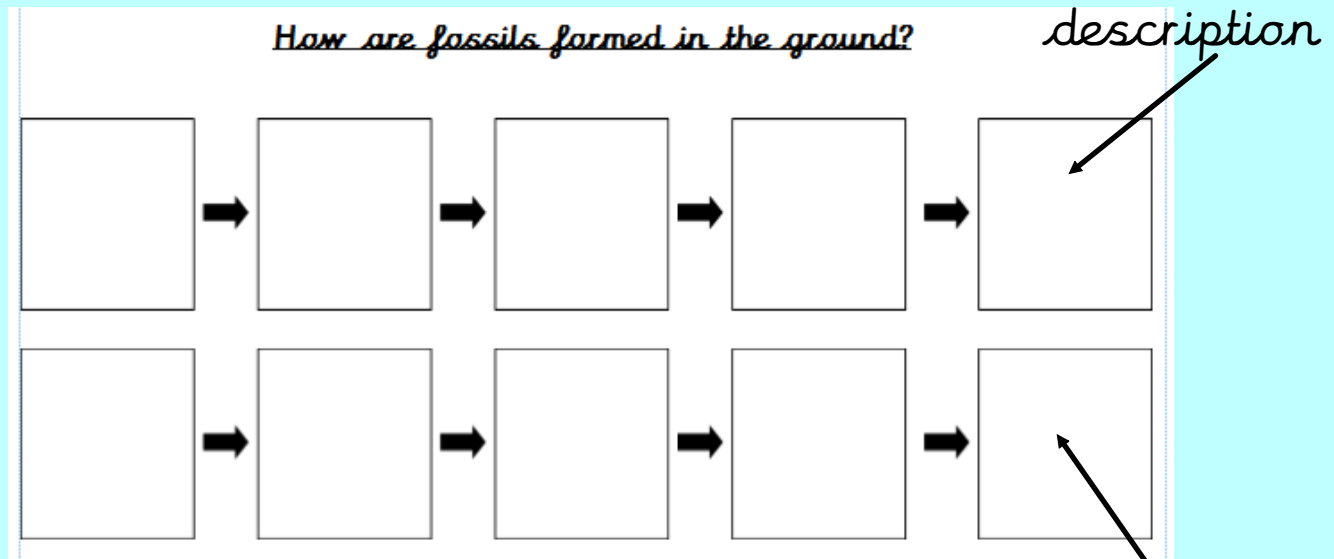
As more layers of sediment build up on top, the sediment around the skeleton begins to compact and turn to rock.

The bones then start to be dissolved by water seeping through the rock. Minerals in the water replace the bone, leaving a **rock replica** of the original bone called a fossil.



It's not just animal and plant remains that can be fossilised. Things like footprints, burrows, eggs and even poo (called coprolite) can be fossilised too.

Task: order the stages to show how an animal becomes fossilised in the ground. Then draw a picture to illustrate each stage.



The soft parts of the body rot away

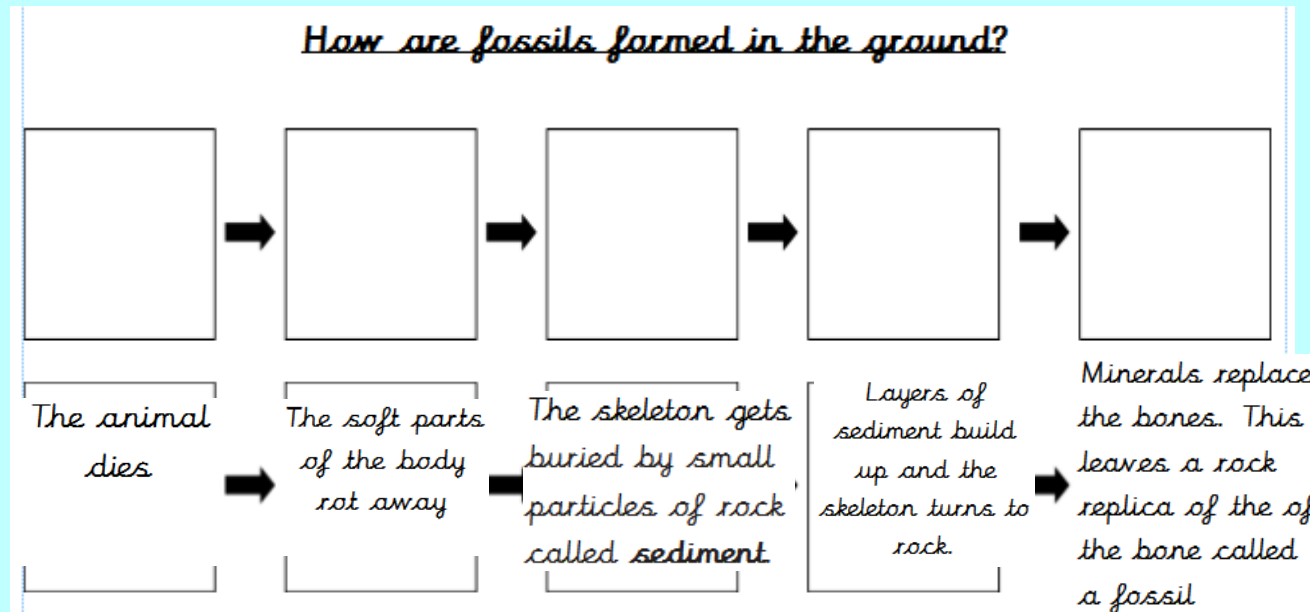
Layers of sediment build up and the skeleton turns to rock.

The animal dies

Minerals replace the bones. This leaves a rock replica of the of the bone called a fossil

The skeleton gets buried by small particles of rock called sediment

Correct order of stages





Key idea:

Fossils are created when plants or animals are trapped within rocks.



How are dinosaur fossils formed?



What can we learn from fossils?

