

W.B. 12.10.2020

Science



LO: To describe how fossils are formed.



Fossils are shapes of dead animals and plants that lived millions of years ago made in rock. Usually when something dies it is eaten or decays and disappears. However, when an animal or plant dies it can get covered over and, over millions of years, become a fossil.

Dinosaurs

- Fossils are really important to know what happened a long time ago.
- Without fossils we would not even know that dinosaurs existed!
- People who study fossils are called palaeontologists.
- Palaeontologists started studying fossils 200 years ago, so we've only known about dinosaurs for 200 years!



Did You Know...?

- 'Sue' is the nickname given to the most complete and best preserved Tyrannosaurus rex specimen ever found
- The word 'fossil' comes from an old word 'fossilis', meaning 'dug up'.
- Fossils are only found in sedimentary rock.
- The fossils in the pictures are called ammonites. It is the town symbol for Whitby in North Yorkshire. Whitby is good for fossil hunting and long ago, people thought that the ammonites were snakes turned to stone by St. Hilda!

How a Fossil is Made

When a plant or animal dies, their body can sink into mud or be buried by sand. This usually happens at the bottom of the sea. When this happens it doesn't disappear. When it is underground, water and minerals leak into the bones and where bits of body used to be. This makes a hard shape. Next, the fossil gets squashed under more layers of sand, mud and other bits that make sedimentary rock. Finally, over many, many millions of years a fossil is created for someone to dig up one day.

Let's read
through our text
together

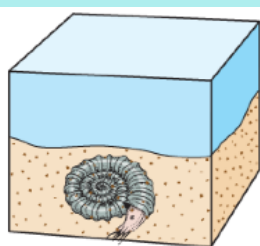
How is a fossil formed?

How do they
stay
preserved?

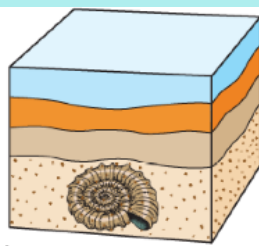
What sort of
rock are
fossils found
in?

What happens
first?

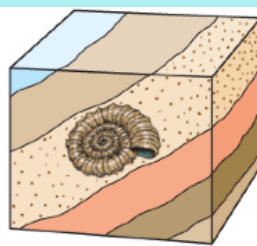
Is the whole
animal
preserved? Or
just some of it?



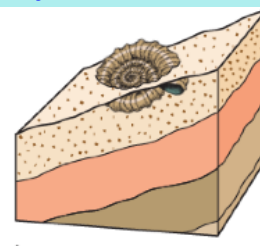
a
An ammonite dies and falls to the bottom of the sea where it is covered by sediments and protected from being eaten by other animals. The soft parts of its body decay, leaving just the shell.



b
More and more sediment covers and squeezes the shell. The shell may remain or be replaced with minerals such as quartz or limestone that seep into it in solution before the original shell dissolves.



c
After millions of years, movement in the Earth's crust may thrust the layer of sedimentary rock containing the fossil upwards to form part of a mountain range.



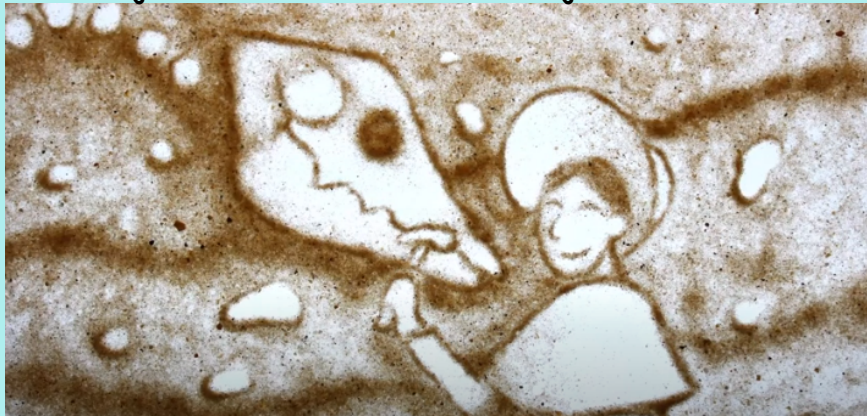
d
Weathering and erosion may eventually wear away some of the rock to expose part of the fossil. Fossils are often found in road cuttings or quarries.

Can you write a set
of instructions
describing how a
fossil is formed?

Wednesday 14th October 2020

LO: To describe how fossils
are formed.

We are learning all about Mary Anning in our English lessons. Watch this video for some extra information



http://youtube.com/watch?v=fjYRPC7Jn_0