

# Fascinating Fossils

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Background:** Fossils are the remains or traces of once-living things. They can range in age from a few thousand years old to several hundred million years old. Fossils are very valuable to scientists because they can be used to tell a great deal about the history of life on earth. For this reason, fossils are often referred to as “windows to the past.”

There are many types of fossils and different ways fossils can be formed. A fossil formed from a living thing gives us important clues about what it was like. The way a fossil is created and the environment in which it was formed can also tell us a great deal about the past. Paleontologists spend the majority of their time trying to solve these mysteries. In this activity you will attempt to carry out the job of a paleontologist by describing the living thing pictured. You will also describe the environment in which it lived and was formed.



1. Plant Fossil

- Describe the once-living thing:
- Where did the organism live?
- Describe how it was formed.

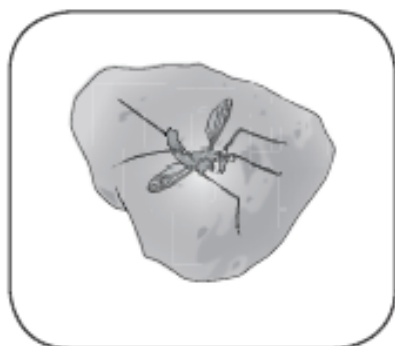


2. Ammonite Fossil

- Describe the once-living thing:
- Where did the organism live?
- Describe how it was formed.

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3. Insect in Amber

a. Describe the once-living thing:

b. Where did the organism live?

c. Describe how it was formed.



4. Trilobite

a. Describe the once-living thing:

b. Where did the organism live?

c. Describe how it was formed.



5. Dinosaur Track

a. Describe the once-living thing:

b. Where did the organism live?

c. Describe how it was formed.