

Name: _____

Date: _____

FOSSILS

Intro:

Did you know the word "fossil" means "having been dug up" in Latin? It's also true that the oldest known fossils on earth are 3.4 billion years old. These particular fossils were found in Western Australia in August of 2011. Fossils are the naturally saved remains or traces of life that lived in the past and are found in sedimentary rock layers. Fossils can tell us a great deal of important information about the earth and the past and while many fossils are extremely old, we are going to make our own fossils in class.



Purpose: To help students understand how fossils are created and what they can tell us about Earth's history.

Learning Outcome: Students will comprehend the creation of fossils and how they convey information about past events.

Procedure:

1. Each student will be given one dinosaur bowl filled with mud, sand, and buried plastic dinosaur bones.
2. Try to dig out your fossil with a piece of small paper or gently use your fingers to brush off the top layer of sand.
3. After every student has dug up all pieces of dinosaur bones from their bowl, try to piece together a whole and complete dinosaur with your classmates.

Questions:

1. The oldest fossils on Earth are
 - a. 3.4 million years
 - b. 3.4 billion eons
 - c. 3.4 million eons
 - d. 3.4 billion years
2. A person that studies fossils and other ancient life is called a
 - a. Meteorologist
 - b. Paleontologist
 - c. Biologist
 - d. Geologist
3. Fossils are...
 - a. Skeletons
 - b. Pieces of dead animals and plants
 - c. Only bones and shells
 - d. Saved remains of life
4. Only fossils that are at least 3.4 million years old are used to tell us about the Earth's history.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. Fossils are found in the following rock type:
 - a. Igneous
 - b. Sedimentary
 - c. Metamorphic