

How are body fossils made?

In this activity we are going to think about how a body fossil is made. Body fossils are fossils where the whole animal has been preserved and can include bones, teeth, claws and sometimes even skin. We can also find body fossils of ancient plants which would include wood trunks, branches and stems.

- 1. Cut out the sentences below and arrange into a sequence of how an animal body fossil is made. If you can't print out this worksheet, then you could write out the sentences in order. Use the YouTube clip found in the instructions for Activity One (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVwPLWOo9TE), and other information on the internet to help you.
- 2. After finding the order, use the sequence to make a cartoon strip of how a body fossil is made. This worksheet includes a template that you can use.

Over millions of years, layers of rock build up on top of the fossil, burying it deep below ground.

More sediment builds up on top of the animal skeleton and is compressed to form rock.

Wind, water and ice eventually erode the rock layers to reveal the fossil.

Minerals in the ground/ groundwater surrounding the skeleton slowly replace the bone and form a fossil.

An animal dies and is buried quickly by sediment.

The fossil is displayed in a museum for everyone to see.

The soft parts of the animal decay, leaving only hard parts of the animal like teeth and bones.

The fossil is discovered! The fossil is carefully removed from the rock and studied by a palaeontologist.



Cartoon template

How an animal body fossil is made

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