

Key Vocabulary

fossil	the remains or trace of a living thing that lived a long time ago
rock	a natural material found on or underneath the Earth's crust
skeleton	a collection of bones
shell	a hard covering on the outside of an animal's body
fossilisation	the process through which a fossil is formed
sediment	small pieces of soil, gravel, sand and small rocks

What are fossils and how are they formed?



Both animals and plants can become fossils.

The process of fossilisation takes thousands of years. When an animal dies, the soft parts of its body break down, leaving behind the hard parts such as the skeleton.

Key Knowledge

- Fossilisation is the process that explains how a fossil is formed.
- A fossil is the remains or trace of a living thing that lived a long time ago.
- Older fossils are found deeper underground.
- Animal footprints and tracks can also form fossils.
- Fossilisation is a rare process that only occurs under certain conditions.
- Fossils are usually formed from the shells or bones of living things.



