



Dear Educator,

This file offers views of some of the worksheets in our “Fossils” thematic unit. The cover for an eWorkbook is shown followed by the preview pages.

The “Fossils” unit offers [15 pages](#).

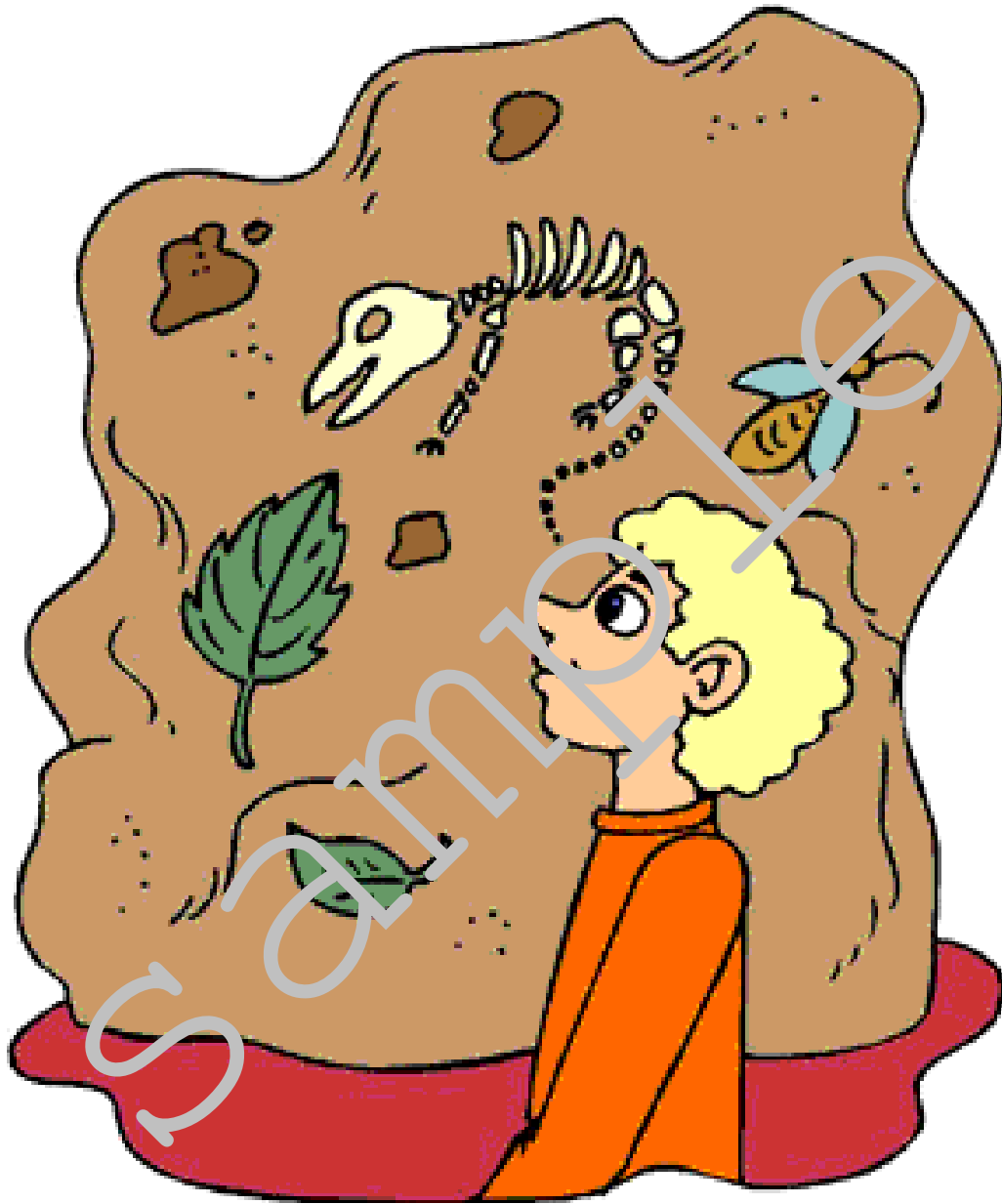
Locate many more eWorkbooks here.

iShopToday.com

Free worksheets, teacher tools, and more can be found here.

SchoolExpress.com

FOSSILS



FOSSILS



Fossils are the remains of living things that were captured in soft material thousands or even millions of years ago. The material could have been sand, mud, volcanic ash, lava, oil, or tar.

In order for the fossil to have been preserved, it must have been covered quickly and completely. Animals that just died in the open were usually eaten by other animals and their bones dissolved in about a year.



Sometimes the material hardened. Mud became sedimentary rock, and sand became sandstone. Lava and ash became basalt and bogs became peat or coal.

Sometimes the surrounding material never turned to a solid. Many fossils have been found in peat bogs and asphalt pits. The most famous of these is the La Brea Tar Pits in California.

Read each sentence below. Fill in the missing words.

1. Fossils are the remains of _____ things.
2. Many fossils have been found in _____ bogs.
3. A famous pit where fossils have been found is called the _____ in California.
4. Sometimes the surrounding material never turned to a _____.



FOSSILS



Some notable people from the United States who helped in the early years of paleontology were Othniel Marsh, Edward Cope, Henry Osborn, and Charles Walcott. These men were very important in establishing the study of natural history in the large universities. They also helped start the first museums of natural history in the country. Most of their work was done in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Paleontologists do not study history based on years, decades, or even centuries. They use terms related to thousands and millions of years. The most common way that a paleontologists talk about ancient time is called the geological time scale. Some of the words they use are very confusing.

Below are a few hints to help figure out some of the words.

The time names from largest to smallest are; eon, era, period, and epoch. There seems to be no exact number of years related to any of these words. Each is identified by an event or circumstances. The dictionary gives almost the same definition for each term.

The suffix 'zoic' means animal life. 'Meso' means middle and 'ceno' means recent. So now you can understand that Paleozoic and Cenozoic eras mean 'ancient time of animal life' and 'recent time of animal life'. We are living in the Cenozoic era. These eras are then divided into periods like the Jurassic and Triassic periods.



Read the sentence below. Fill in the blank.

1. Meso means _____.
2. zoic means _____.
3. Jurassic _____

FOSSILS

Criss Cross

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

leaf
rocks

fossils
inprint

dinosaur
amber

mold
find

