

## **Fossils**

## **Earth Science**



S3E2. Students will investigate fossils as evidence of organisms that lived long ago.

- a. Investigate fossils by observing authentic fossils or models of fossils or view information resources about fossils as evidence of organisms that lived long ago.
- b. Describe how a fossil is formed.

Fossils are the remains of dead organisms.

Plants or animals can die and be buried by sediments, frozen, dried, or preserved.

Over millions of years, a fossil will be formed.

mineralized fossil: minerals in mud replace the minerals of the organism's hard body parts (bones or shells)

mold fossil: shape of a once living organism left in sediment when the rock formed. The organism breaks down (decays), leaving only the empty space shaped like the organism.

cast fossil: forms when mud or minerals later <u>fill a mold fossil</u>. It is the actual shape of the living thing.

trace fossil: items that were never alive; things like footprints or nests; help learn about animal behaviors

amber fossil: preserved organisms found in tree sap
petrified wood: minerals have replaced the soft parts of a once living plant
frozen or dried fossils: may still have hair or skin visible. They have been
protected from decaying due to being frozen or dried out.

## **Purpose**

-Teaches about the past history of our Earth
-Shows how animals and plants have changed (adaptations/evolution)
-Past weather conditions

-Former location of oceans, lakes, or forests





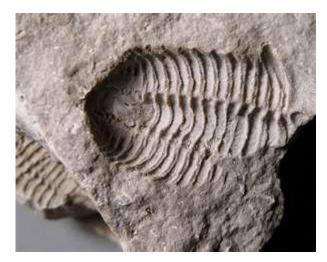
amber fossil of a spider



trace fossil of dinosaur



petrified wood fossil



mold fossil of a trilobite



cast fossil of a trilobite