







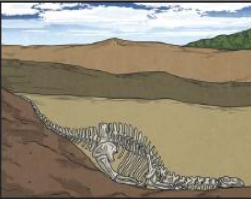
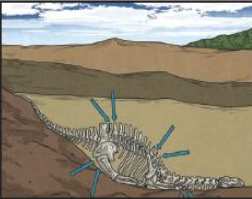



Science – Year 3 – Fossils



1. To explore fossils	2. To observe and explain how fossils are formed.
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fossil	The remains or trace of a living thing that lived a long time ago	 Fossil
rock	A natural material found on or underneath the Earth's crust	 Rock
skeleton	A collection of bones	 Skeleton
shell	A hard covering on the outside of an animal's body	 Shell
fossilisation	The process through which a fossil is formed	
sediment	Small pieces of soil, gravel, sand and small rock	 Sediment

<p>Fossilisation</p> <p>Fossilisation is a very rare occurrence that needs the right conditions and a lot of time to occur. Specimens are generally considered to be fossils if they are at least 10,000 years old.</p> <p>Fossils from marine environments are common as this type of environment provides appropriate conditions for fossilisation.</p>	<p>Layers of Fossils</p> <p>Due to the way the rock fossils are commonly found in layers over time, older fossils tend to be deeper underground.</p> 			
<p>The Fossilisation Process</p>				
 <p>A living thing, such as an animal or plant, dies.</p>	 <p>The remains are covered by sediment. Eventually, only the hard parts (such as bones) remain as the soft parts have decayed.</p>	 <p>Sediment continues to build up in layers, placing pressure on the layers below and turning them into rock.</p>	 <p>Water containing minerals enters the hard remains. The minerals replace the bone to form the fossil.</p>	 <p>Over millions of years, the rock containing the fossil rises to the surface. A process called erosion can reveal the fossil.</p>