Y6 Fossils Mary Anning

KS2 Y6 Science · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Why are fossils usually of bones, shells and teeth, not skin or muscle?

Step 1 · What happens to soft parts after death?

They rot quickly or are eaten

Step 2 · What about hard parts?

They last long enough to be buried and turned to rock

Answer: Hard parts last long enough to become fossils; soft parts usually rot first.

Check: Rarely, soft parts are preserved, for example insects trapped in amber.

2. Now try one with the steps

What can fossils tell us about life millions of years ago?

Step 1 · What lived

Step 2 · How they lived

Step 3 · How life changed

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is a fossil?

2. In what kind of rock are most fossils found?

3. Which parts of an animal usually become fossils?

4. Where did Mary Anning live and find fossils?

5. What does 'extinct' mean?

6. Is an ichthyosaur a dinosaur?

7. What is a trace fossil? Give an example.

8. In layers of rock, which layer is usually the oldest?

9. Mary Anning was born in 1799 and found her first complete plesiosaur in 1823. How old was she?

10. Dinosaurs died out about 66 million years ago. Written in digits, how many years is that?

11. Why must an animal be buried quickly to become a fossil?

12. Why didn't Mary Anning get the credit she deserved in her lifetime?

13. Fossil seashells are found at the top of a mountain. What does this tell us?

14. Give TWO things scientists can learn from a fossil.

4. Before you hand it in

Calling every prehistoric reptile a dinosaur.
Dinosaurs lived on land. Call the others prehistoric reptiles.

Thinking a fossil is the actual old bone.
A fossil is usually rock in the shape of the living thing.

Thinking humans and dinosaurs lived at the same time.

There's a gap of more than 65 million years.

Thinking fossils form in a few years.

Fossils form very slowly, over millions of years.