

How To Make A Fossil

Museums have lots of fossils. Fossils can be big, or they can be tiny. Fossils are all that we have left of the dinosaurs now. But how are fossils made?

R: Where have lots of fossils?

Museums

Libraries

Shops

V: Which word means “small”?

First, you will need a dinosaur. It will make a better fossil if it died in the water. If it is in water, other dinosaurs can't eat it as easily. Let it sink to the bottom.

Lots of mud will cover the dinosaur. The mud will harden over time.

R: Why is it better if the dinosaur dies in the water?

Mud can cover it easily

It won't be eaten by other dinosaurs

All of the soft bits of the dinosaur will rot away. Only the bones will be left.

R: What will be left of your dinosaur?

Leave your dinosaur for at least ten thousand years. Minerals will replace the bones.

You can now dig up your fossil. Treat it carefully. It will be very rare.

R: Which word tells you that there aren't many fossils?

Fossil

Carefully

Rare

Did you know:

Palaeontologists are scientists who study fossils.

Palaeontologists have found fewer than ten tyrannosaurus rex skeletons!

They have only found 12 velociraptor skeletons.

Most of the fossils you see in a museum are not real. They have been made for the museum. The real fossils are just too rare and expensive.

R: How many tyrannosaurus rex skeletons have scientists found?

I: Why can't museums show you some real fossils?



Answers

R: Museums

V: Tiny

R: It won't be eaten by other dinosaurs

R: Bones

V: Rare

R: Less than ten

I: They are expensive/rare/might get damaged

