

Grade 2 – Assignment for week of (5/26 to 5/29)

Learning about Fossils:

Last week we learned about dinosaurs, which are found only buried in the ground, because they lived millions of years ago.

This week we will learn about how we study fossils, found in the Earth, to learn all about dinosaurs.

Task #1:

Read and review the words and share with a parent or guardian or think to yourself.

Science Vocabulary:

Fossil:	what is left of a plant or animal that lived long ago
Paleontologist:	a scientist who finds and studies fossils
Excavated:	when something is uncovered by digging it out
Sedimentary Rock:	rock made by layers of sand and mud that is pressed together
Mineral:	a nonliving material, in the shape of crystals, that makes up rock
Replacement:	fossils made when an organism's hard parts are replaced by minerals

Task #2: Acrostics

Use words from the science vocabulary listed above, to make an **acrostic** telling about how fossils are found and made. An acrostic uses each letter in the word to describe the word or tell a story about what you are learning. Make an acrostic for (3) vocabulary words.

An example for the word **Earth Day** might be:

Earth is our planet.

April 22nd, we celebrate

Reduce, reuse, and recycle

Take pride in our planet

Help do your part

Doing a little each day helps

Animal and plants need our help

You can help every day



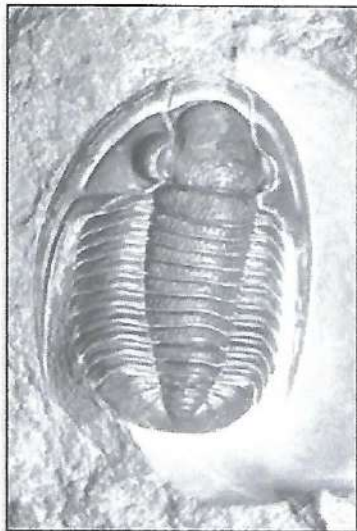
Task #3:

Read the information below on the page named, "What are Fossils and what is Paleontology?" On the following page entitled, "Fossil Response Sheet," use this information and your science vocabulary to answer the questions using complete sentences.

Name _____

WHAT ARE FOSSILS AND WHAT IS PALEONTOLOGY?

Date _____



The only way we have of learning about dinosaurs is by studying fossils. **Fossils are** what is left behind from ancient animals and plants. Fossils are the impressions of living things that are left in the layers of rock and soil. Fossils have been found on every continent on Earth, maybe even near where you live.

The word fossil comes from the Latin word fossils, which means "dug up." **Most fossils** are excavated, or dug up, from sedimentary rock layers.

Sedimentary rock is rock that is made from sediment. Sediment is small pieces of rocks like sand and mud. Over long periods of time, these small pieces of rock are squeezed under more and more layers. These layers of sediment pile up and eventually become sedimentary rock. The layers that are farther down in the Earth are older than the top layers.

The fossil of a bone doesn't have any bone in it! A fossilized object has the same shape as the original object, but is really more like a rock.

Paleontology is a kind of biology, or study of living things. Paleontologists study living things from long ago by looking at plant and animal fossils.

Fossils have the same shape that the original item had, but their color, weight, and texture are very different. A fossil's color depends on what kinds of minerals made it. **Fossils are usually heavier** than the original item since they are made entirely of minerals. Most fossils are made of ordinary rock material.

Task #4:

Use the information from the previous page called, "What are Fossils and what is Paleontology?" and your science vocabulary to answer the questions below using complete sentences.

Name _____

Fossils Activity Sheet

Date _____

- Answer questions (1-4) using the fossils information sheet.

1. Use a complete sentence to tell what a fossil is:

2. Use a complete sentence to tell what layer of rock most fossils are found in:

3. Use a complete sentence to explain what sedimentary rock is:

4. Use a sentence to tell why fossils are heavier than the living things they came from:

Task #5: Observing Fossils →

Fossils are made in different ways and can be made from different kinds of living things that lived long ago. Look at the different fossils below and tell what kind of living thing made the fossil and tell one thing about the fossil that you find interesting.



What living thing left this fossil?

What do you like or find interesting about the fossil?



What living thing left this fossil?

What do you like or find interesting about the fossil?



What living thing left this fossil?

What do you like or find interesting about the fossil?



What living thing left this fossil?

What do you like or find interesting about the fossil?

