

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Fossil Types (Part 1)

A fossil is any evidence of past life which is over 10 thousand years old. They may be actual remains of an animal or plant such as bones, teeth, empty shells, antlers, horns, bony plates, body armor, scales, egg shells, intact eggs or even dinosaur embryos. They may be impressions of body parts such as footprints, tail drag marks, feather impressions, claw and teeth marks and skin imprints. Fossils may come from inside an animal's body such as gastroliths (stomach stones for grinding plant food). Plant fossils may be actual plant parts such as leaves, seeds, branches, trunks or roots. The impression of a plant is a fossil as well. Plant and animal secretions such as sap are also fossils.

### 1. Classify the fossils by their type:

**A.R. = Actual Remains**

**P.M. = Petrified and Mineralized Remains**

**T. = Trace Fossils**

\_\_\_ frozen animal

\_\_\_ dinosaur bone turned into rock

\_\_\_ amber (tree sap)

\_\_\_ footprint

\_\_\_ pinecone turned to rock

\_\_\_ tail drag mark

\_\_\_ empty shell turned to rock

\_\_\_ tree branch turned into coal

\_\_\_ skin impression

\_\_\_ gastrolith (stomach stone)

\_\_\_ piece of shell

\_\_\_ dinosaur feces turned to rock

\_\_\_ tooth mark



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## Fossils (Part 2)

Put a checkmark beside the following situations which could create a fossil?

1. A dinosaur stepped by the river to take a drink. His feet sank into the mud. Later the mud dried and was covered up by more mud.
2. Sap dripped down from a tree. It was covered with mud and sand.
3. A dinosaur laid eggs in a nest. Before the eggs could hatch there was a storm. The eggs were buried.
4. A reptile ate a small fish. Some of the bones fell to the bottom of the ocean and were covered in sand.
5. A pinecone fell off of a tree. It lay on the ground until dirt covered it.
6. A tooth fell out when Allosaurus was eating his meal. The tooth lay on the ground until it was covered in mud.
7. A branch fell to the ground and was covered by soil.
8. A dinosaur walked into some tar. As his feet were trapped he tried to get free. Eventually he died and fell into the tar.
9. A dinosaur bone lay in the mud. Along came another dinosaur who picked it up and began to chew on it. There was an impression in the mud. It filled in with silt.
10. Inside dinosaur droppings were some small stones from his stomach. These stones were swallowed by the dinosaur to help his stomach break down the plants that he ate. The droppings decomposed but the stones remained.
11. Other dinosaur droppings hardened and were buried by mud.
12. Pieces of a turtle's shell dropped to the river bed. The water carried them downstream until silt covered them.



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