

Year 3. w/b28.9.20

Science

**LO: To understand the process of fossil formation and be able to describe it.**

**Rocks and Soils**

**Vocabulary**

Organism sediment palaeontologist extinct

**Websites**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/z4r4d2p>

<http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/fossils/intro/form.htm>

What is a fossil?

Fossils are the remains of organisms that lived millions of years ago. Fossils are formed when an organism dies and is covered by sediment. Over millions of years, the shape of the organism is preserved in the rock.

Fossils are important to palaeontologists because they give us clues about organisms that lived millions of years ago, many of which are now extinct.

How fossils are formed

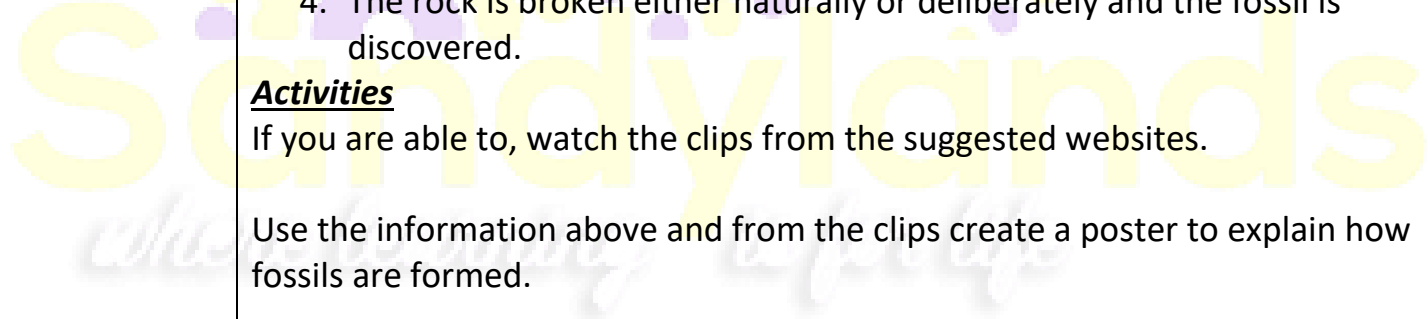
1. The organism dies.
2. The organism is covered with layers of sediment. This needs to happen soon after the organism's death or no fossil will be formed.
3. Over millions of years, the sediment is compressed and forms new layers of sedimentary rock. The shape of the organism creates a shape in the rock. The organism might decay completely, leaving a hole or mould
4. The rock is broken either naturally or deliberately and the fossil is discovered.

**Activities**

If you are able to, watch the clips from the suggested websites.

Use the information above and from the clips create a poster to explain how fossils are formed.

Remember to include the features of an explanation text, as shown below.



# Explanation Text Features Key

	Title shows what the text is about. Often uses “How...” or “Why...”		Technical vocabulary specific to the topic.
	Opening paragraph introduces the process.		Diagrams/illustrations with labels.
	Chronological order with time conjunctions.		Cause and effect conjunctions explain how one event leads to the next.
	Stages of the process clearly broken down.		Final paragraph (conclusion) links back to the opening.
	Present tense (unless it's a historical explanation).		Passive voice is often used. (e.g. something is done)
	Impersonal tone.		