Find Out About Fossils

Procedure

1. **Observe** Examine one of the fossils provided to you by your teacher. Look at the shape, structure, texture, and length of the fossil. Record your observations in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fossil 1</th>
<th>Fossil 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shape</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Measure** With a metric ruler, measure the length of the fossil and record the data in your chart.

3. **Observe** Reexamine the fossil with a hand lens and record any features you did not notice before.

4. **Use Models** Draw the fossil in the space below, labeling all the details and features you have found.

5. **Observe** Repeat steps 1–4 for the second fossil.
Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. **Infer** Based on your observations, what do you think the fossils are made of?

   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

2. **Compare** How are the two fossils similar? How are they different?

   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

3. **Hypothesize** What do you think each of the original organisms was? Explain.

   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

4. **Infer** What other facts or ideas about the organisms can you infer? Discuss your reasoning.

   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

**Investigate More!**

**Research** Use the Internet or library resources to identify one of the fossils you examined. Learn where and when the organism lived and any other interesting facts about it. Present your information to the class.