

# Fossil Cards, Page 1



Copy cards, cut out, and put into the appropriate fossil bag.

## Crinoid Stem

- 325 million years old
- found in Texas
- lived in the ocean

This is the “stem” of an animal that looked like a plant and lived in the ocean. It looks like a pile of round plates, with lines that go out from the center.

## Shark Tooth

- 20 million years old
- found in Florida
- lived in the ocean

Scientists can tell how big a shark was by the size of the fossil teeth they find. The largest shark tooth fossil ever found is 8 inches long.

## Algae

- 350 million years old
- found in Wyoming
- lived in the ocean

Simple, one-celled organisms. The dark area on the rock is the fossil algae.

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## Fern Leaf

- 300 million years old
- found in Oklahoma
- lived on land

This is a mold fossil. Ferns lived near swamps. When they died they fell in the water. When covered with sand or mud, the fern made a print that was saved as a fossil. Coal is made from ferns and other plants that were heated and squeezed for thousands of years.

## Dinosaur Bone

- 190 million years old
- found in Colorado
- lived on land

Minerals filled in the small air spaces in the bone without changing the original shape. This is the original bone, made stronger with hardened minerals.

## Leaf

- 325 million years old
- lived on land

Fossil imprint of a leaf. The leaf fell in the mud. More mud covered the leaf. The mud hardened. After the leaf decayed, it left this print.

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## **Petrified Wood**

- 200 million years old
- found in Colorado
- lived on land

The soft wood of this tree was replaced by minerals that were dissolved in water. The water soaked into the wood. Then the minerals from the water hardened into rock.

## **Oyster**

- 150 million years old
- found in Texas
- lived in the ocean

An animal with two shells that close around it. Oysters usually have a number of wavy, circular ridges or lines across the shell.

## **Ammonite**

- 130 million years old
- found in Morocco
- lived in the ocean

This flat, coiled shell is divided inside into sections called chambers. The animal stored gas in the sections and moved by pushing the gas out (jet propulsion). To sink, the animal added water to the chambers.

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## Bryozoa

- 500 million years old
- found in Ohio
- lived in the ocean

This fossil was left by a colony of tiny animals. Look closely at the curving, branched tubes and see the tiny holes where the animals lived.

## Protozoa

- 325 million years ago
- found in Iowa
- lived in the ocean

This fossil is of a tiny, animal-like creature that lived long ago. It is called the “wheat grain” fossil because it is shaped like a grain of wheat.

## Horn Coral

- 325 million years old
- found in Texas
- lived in the ocean

Use your magnifier to see the pattern on the coral. The animals lived in the tiny spaces.

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## **Turritella in Agate**

- 65 million years old
- found in Wyoming
- lived in the ocean

A long, slender shell coiled with many turns. This snail ate tiny animals in the mud, dragging its shell behind. Agate is the semi-precious gemstone around this fossil.

## **Sea Urchin**

- 150 million years old
- found in Texas
- lived in the ocean

This is a cast fossil. The original shell was buried in limestone and dissolved over thousands of years. Minerals filled the space left by the shell.

## **Gastropod**

- 150 million years old
- found in Mexico
- lived in the ocean

This snail lived underwater. Look at the patterns on the shell with your magnifier.

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## Brachiopod

- 395 million years old
- found in Kansas
- lived in the ocean

This fossil shows that Kansas was once under an ocean. This is a cast fossil of a two-shelled animal. The shell was stuck in the mud, and over thousands of years it dissolved. Minerals filled the space left behind, and then hardened.

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Complete the blanks for any fossils you or your students bring in.

<p><b>Name:</b> _____</p> <p>Age: _____</p> <p>Where found: _____</p> <p>Land or ocean: _____</p> <p>Description: _____</p> <p>_____</p>
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<p><b>Name:</b> _____</p> <p>Age: _____</p> <p>Where found: _____</p> <p>Land or ocean: _____</p> <p>Description: _____</p> <p>_____</p>
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