

Rocks and Fossils Study Guide

VOCABULARY: Write the word from the word bank that matches each definition.

Word Bank: fossil decay imprint sediment weathering sedimentary rock

_____ the breakdown of rock into smaller particles caused by wind, water, and ice

_____ a mark or depression made by pressure

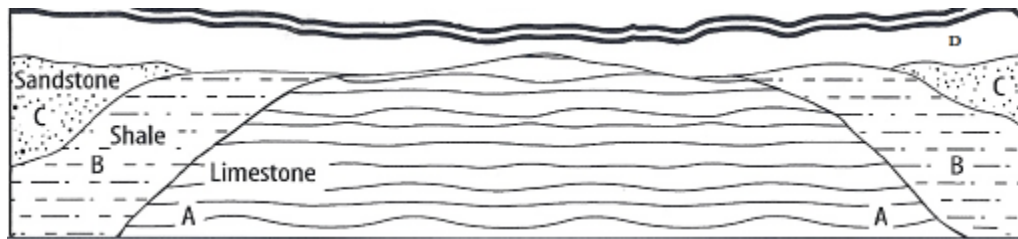
_____ small pieces of rock

_____ preserved parts or traces of animals and plants that lived in the past

_____ rock made of layers of compressed organic and inorganic sediments

_____ to rot and break down into small parts

Use this diagram of rock layers to answer these questions.



Which letter layer is the youngest? ____ How did you know?

Which letter layer is the oldest? ____ How did you know?

Number these steps to show the correct sequence for an organism to become a fossil.

_____ The packed sediment turns to stone and the organism decays, leaving a mold of its shape in the stone.

_____ Over time, many layers of sediment pack on top of the organism.

_____ Eventually the fossil is exposed to the Earth's surface through weathering or excavation, and it is discovered.

_____ An organism dies and is quickly covered by sediment on land or under water.

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Choose the best answer. Circle it.

- 1) To make a sedimentary rock, it usually takes _____.
 - A. about a week
 - B. about a year
 - C. about a month
 - D. millions of years
- 2) Which of these is an example of an imprint?
 - A. a footprint from a dinosaur
 - B. an insect trapped in amber
 - C. petrified wood
 - D. a wooly mammoth frozen in ice
- 3) When paleontologists find a fossil, it can tell them about the earth's environment from long ago.
 - A. true
 - B. false
- 4) Finding fossils helps us know what color dinosaurs' skin was.
 - A. true
 - B. false
- 5) If you found a fossil of a fern leaf, what would you guess about the area where it was found?
 - A. an ice glacier was once there
 - B. a forest was once there
 - C. a desert was once there
 - D. an ocean was once there
- 6) By studying fossils, we can determine _____.
 - A. what lived there many years ago
 - B. the weather forecast of an area
 - C. the phases of the moon
 - D. the different animals that live today

Draw an example of something that you might find as a fossil. Label it to tell what it is. Write a description to tell what we can learn about its environment.