

Name _____

Period _____

Getting Into the Fossil Record

What are fossils?

What is the fossil record?

Please give five examples of fossils:

Fossils can also be _____ left by organisms, such as _____,
_____, and trails.

Describe the difference between a trace fossil and a body fossil, and give an example of each.

What are sediments and how do they form?

How do fossils form?

Why is it important in fossil formation that organisms get buried quickly?

What biotic and abiotic factors might destroy an organism before it can turn into a fossil?

Biotic factors:

Abiotic factors:

Forming fossils:

Molds

Casts

Mineralization

Impressions

Forams and other specimens preserved without mineralization

Examples of fossil formation without being buried in sediment:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Why are there few (if any) fossils of sea slugs?

Why are you more likely to find a fossilized trilobite than a fossilized sea urchin?

How does the environment affect fossilization?

1. Ocean floor

2. Lakes

3. Rocky intertidals

4. Rain

forest

Why is the fossil record not a complete snapshot of life at that time?

What are risks to the fossil record after fossils have formed?

What are the three rock types?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What rock type contains fossils?

Why do paleontologists have to consult geologic maps before they search for fossils?

What type and age of rock would you look for when searching for T. Rex fossils?

Why do paleontologists look for fossils on the sides of hills?
