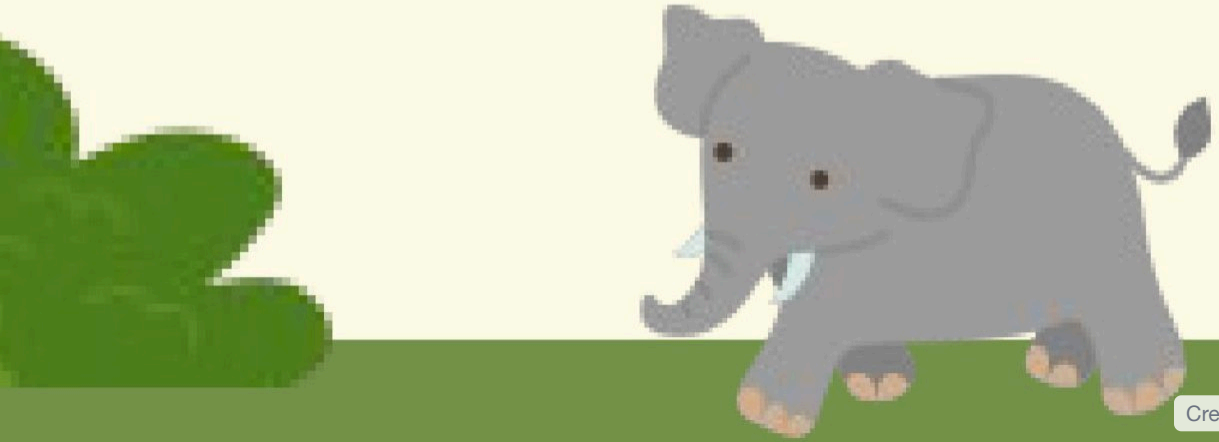
Fossils: Life from Millions of Years Ago

How living things have changed over time





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Today we will...

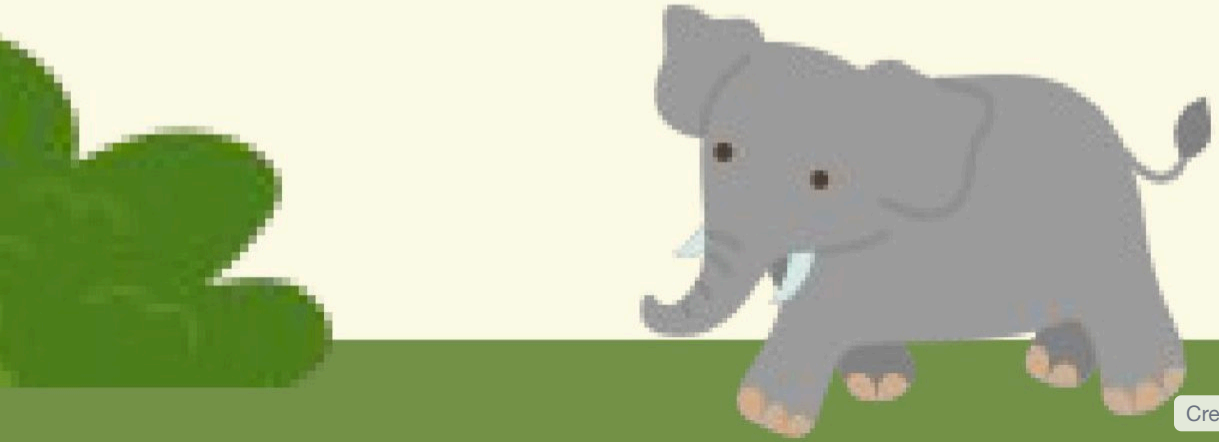
WE ARE LEARNING TO

- Recognise living things have changed over millions of years
- Explain what fossils tell us about ancient life

SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

✓ I can say how a fossil forms

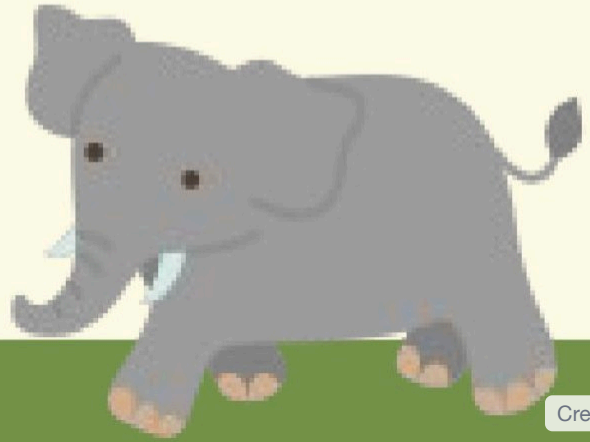
✓ I can describe what a fossil tells us



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How a fossil forms

1. Animal dies in sea, lake or river
2. Body is quickly buried by sand and mud
3. Soft parts decay, hard shells and bones stay
4. Minerals slowly turn hard parts to stone
5. Millions of years later, people find the fossil



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A VERY, VERY LONG TIME AGO

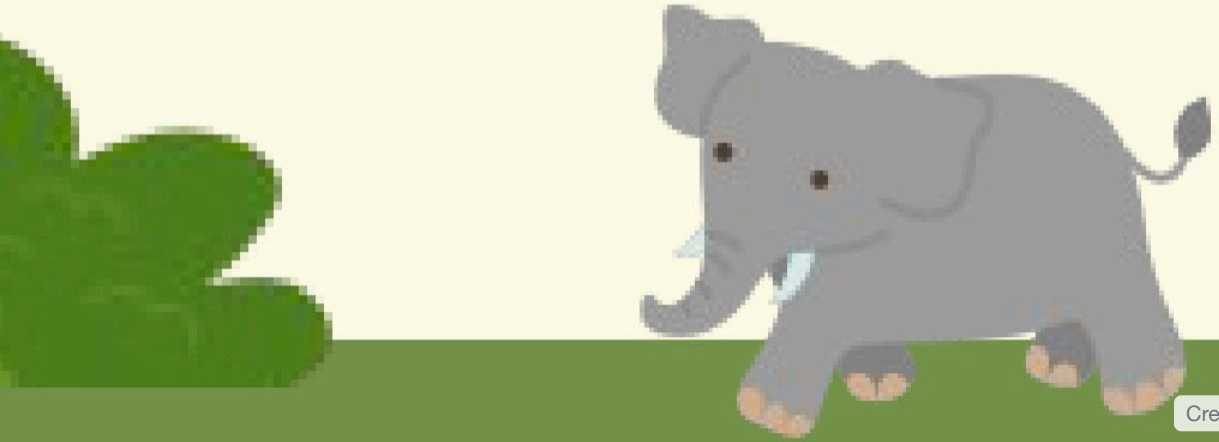
65M yrs

since curly ammonites swam in the sea

Their shell fossils show life very different from today.



Photo: Linas Juozėnas · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

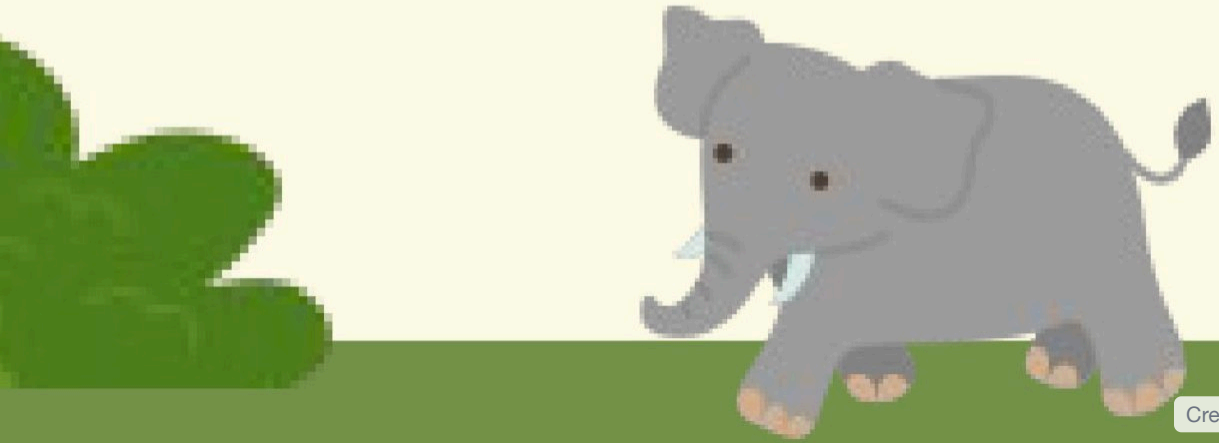


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What could this be?

These big footprints are in solid rock. No animal is here. What made them?





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How does a fossil form?



▶ 0:00 – 1:06

- Watch what buries the animal first
- Spot which parts last the longest

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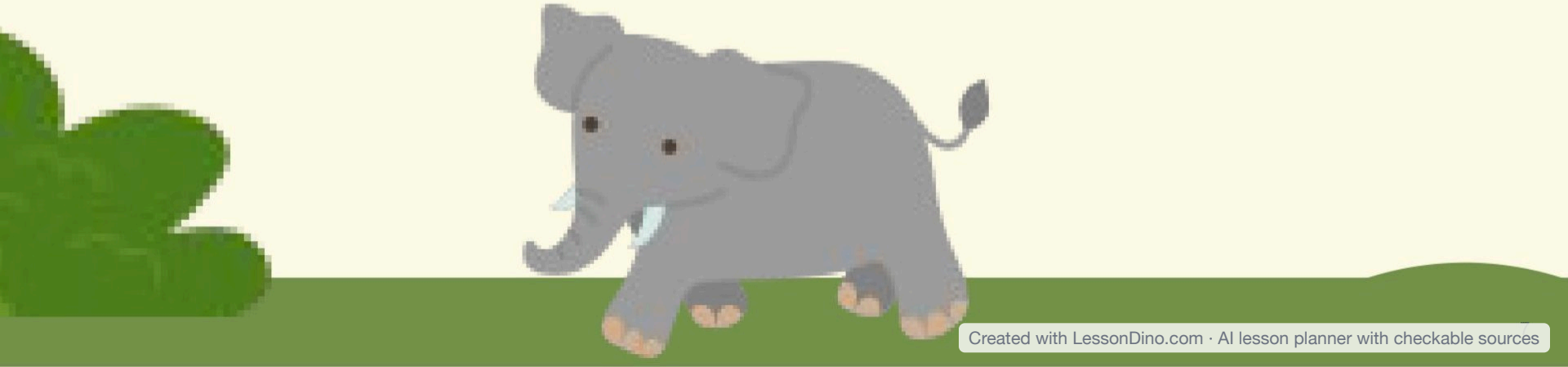
Two kinds of fossil clues

Body fossils

- Hard bones, teeth and shells
- Show what the body looked like

Trace fossils

- Footprints, burrows and roots
- Show how it lived and moved



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How living things changed



▶ 0:00 – 5:00

- Watch how dinosaurs look more bird-like
- Think what that tells us about change

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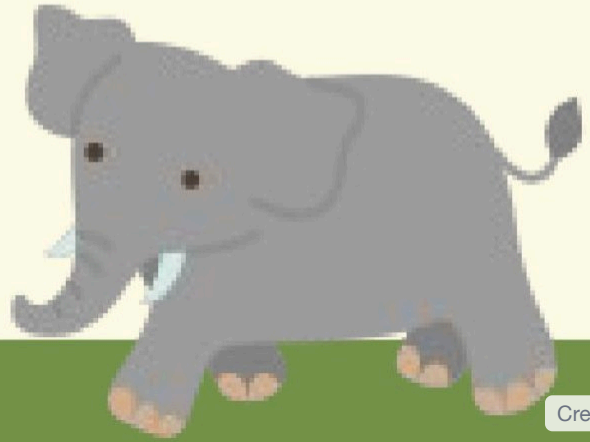
Your task

In pairs, draw a 4-box story of how a sea shell became a fossil clue.

1. Draw burial in mud, decay, turning to stone, discovery
2. Add one short label in each box
3. Underneath, write what it tells us about long ago

10 min

In pairs



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Key words

fossil

Remains or traces of ancient life saved in rock.

evolution

Very slow change in living things over millions of years.

extinct

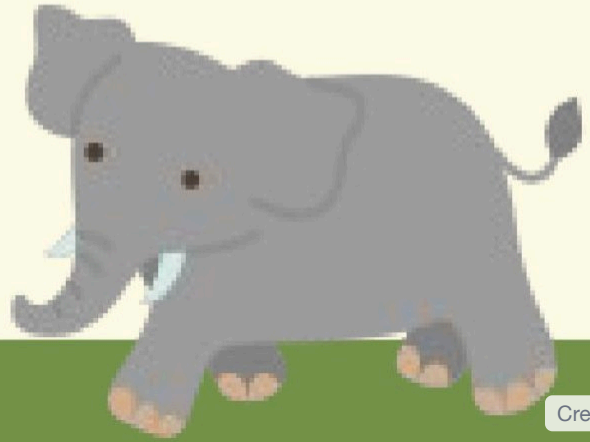
When no members of a kind are alive anywhere.

trace fossil

Saved footprint or burrow, not the body itself.



Photo: Ryan Somma from Occoquan, USA · CC BY-SA 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons

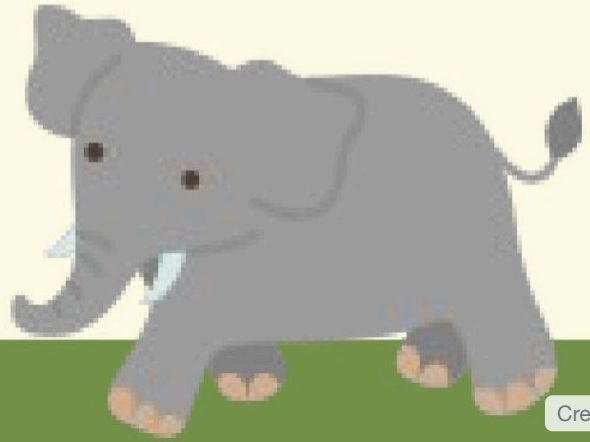


Vote: best fossil find?

If you could find one fossil, which would you pick?

- **A** Huge dinosaur bone
- **B** Tiny curly ammonite shell
- **C** Dinosaur footprint trail

Vote with your hands, then explain why.



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Exit ticket

1

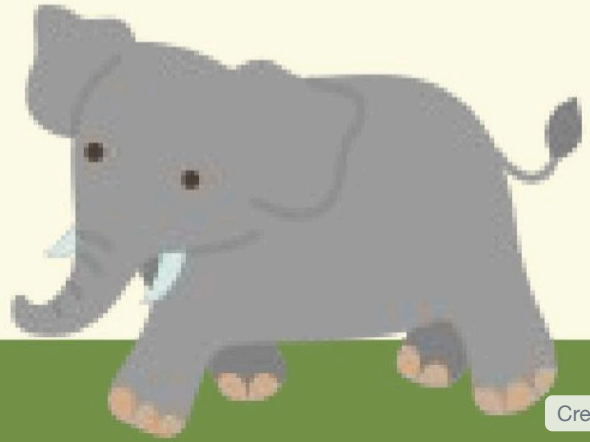
One fossil fact I learnt today is...

2

Living things have changed over time because...

3

One question I still have is...



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