Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Fossils Tell Stories

How living things have changed over millions of years



About 50 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

Fossils Are Clues

Living things have changed over **millions** of years. **Fossils** give us information about plants and animals that lived long ago. Most fossils are found in **sedimentary** rock.



- **Body** fossils are preserved hard parts, like bones, teeth and shells.
- **Trace** fossils are marks left behind, like footprints and burrows.
- Fossils of simple living things are in the **oldest** rocks.

Task A

/2

Fill in the missing boxes to show how a fossil forms in rock.

1. An animal dies in or near water
2. _____
3. More layers build up over millions of years
4. _____
5. Scientists find the fossil in sedimentary rock

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Words and Gaps

Learn key words and think about missing fossils.

Key words

fossil: preserved remains or trace from long ago

sedimentary rock: rock made from layers of sand and mud

body fossil: preserved part like a bone or shell

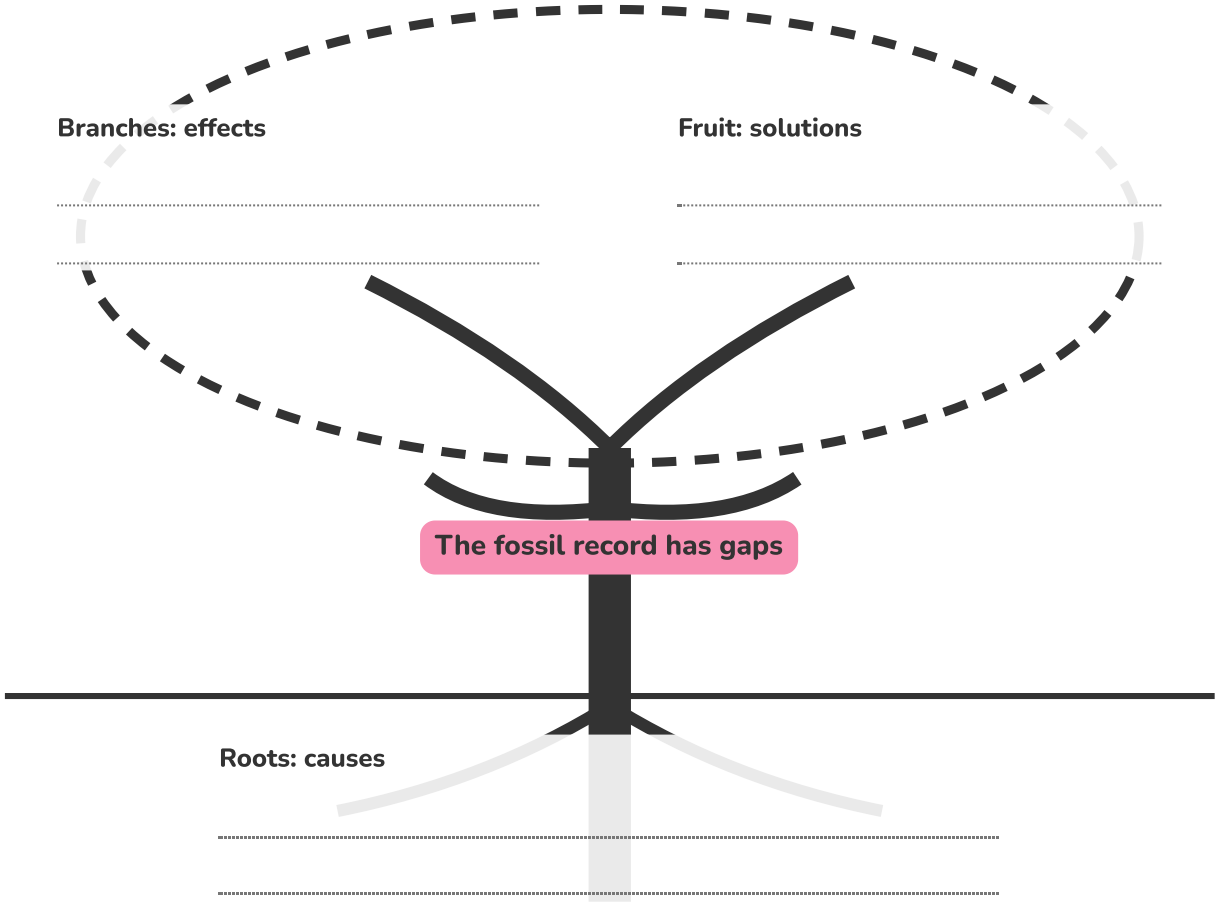
evolution: slow change in living things over time

extinct: no longer alive anywhere

trace fossil: preserved mark like a footprint

Task B

Think about gaps in the fossil record. Add causes, effects and solutions to the tree.



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Know Want Learnt

Record what you know and what you learn.

Task C

Think about fossils and change. Complete what you know, want to know and learnt.

Think about: What have you seen or heard about fossils? · How can old bones and footprints show change?

K What I know	W What I want to know	L What I learnt

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Who Is Right?

Decide which idea about fossils is correct.

Task D /3

Read the ideas about fossils. Decide who you agree with and why.



Student A

Do **fossils** show that living things have changed?

No. They are just odd shapes in **rocks**.



Student B

Yes. The simplest **fossils** are in the oldest rocks.



Student C

Yes. Every dead plant turns into a **fossil**.



Student D

What do you think of each idea? Why?

Student B: .....

.....

Student C: .....

.....

Student D: .....

.....

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Check and Match

Fix mistakes and match fossils to clues.

Task E

/4

Underline each mistake about fossils. Write the correction.

Fossils are the preserved **remains** of living things from milion years ago. They are mostly found in igneous rock. Ammonites were sea creatures that became extinct about 65 thousand years ago. Footprints and burrows are not fossils, they are just marks in mud.

There are 4 mistakes.

Mistake	Correction

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Fossils Tell Stories

Task F

/3

Look at each fossil card. Write what it tells us about the past.



Fossil shows
coiled shell of a sea animal

It tells us

.....

.....

Draw it

Fossil shows
large three-toed footprint in rock

It tells us

.....

.....



Fossil shows
flat dark leaf shape in rock

It tells us

.....

.....

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can recognise that living things have changed over time.	☹ 😐 ☺
I can explain what fossils tell us about life millions of years ago.	☹ 😐 ☺
I can give examples of body fossils and trace fossils.	☹ 😐 ☺

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Answer sheet: Fossils Tell Stories

Task A

1. An animal dies in or near water
2. It is quickly buried in sand and mud
3. More layers build up over millions of years
4. Hard parts are replaced by minerals and turn to stone
5. Scientists find the fossil in sedimentary rock

Task B

Answers will vary, e.g. causes: soft bodies decay and do not fossilise; effects: we miss some early life; solutions: study trace fossils and protect rock sites

Task C

Answers will vary.

Task D

Student B: not right
Student C: right
Student D: not right
Student C is right because simplest fossils in oldest rocks and more complex fossils in newer rocks show change over time.

Task E

1. milion → million
2. igneous rock → sedimentary rock
3. 65 thousand years ago → 65 million years ago
4. are not fossils → are trace fossils

Task F

1. it lived in the sea millions of years ago and is now extinct
2. a large animal walked here; footprints are trace fossils
3. similar plants lived long ago; plants have changed over time

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