

Questions About Fossils

Answers

1. What does a palaeontologist study?

Fossils

2. What is the nickname of the best preserved Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton?

Sue

3. Why do you think fossils are never found in igneous rock?

It is too hot and it will have destroyed the fossils/fossils are not able to form.

4. Why do you think that the people of Whitby thought that the ammonites were snakes turned to stone by St. Hilda?

Ammonites look like curled up snakes but do not have a head.

5. Why have we only got fossils to find out about dinosaurs?

Because they lived so long ago and nothing else would last that long.

(Discuss what we have now as evidence: photos, film, books, stories passed down through generations etc.)

6. What does the Latin word 'fossilis' mean?

'dug up'

7. How come the fossilised animals or plants haven't been eaten by other animals?

They were buried under mud or sand (or similar).

8. Why did the author use an exclamation mark at the end of the Fossil Facts section?

To add surprise: It is surprising to us today that anyone could believe that snakes could turn to stone. (Discuss why they might have thought that though).

9. Why aren't there any fossils of cats that lived twenty years ago?

Fossils take millions of years to make. Twenty years is not anywhere near long enough.

10. In the 'How a Fossil is Made' section, what does the word 'seep' mean?

A liquid flowing or leaking SLOWLY through a POROUS material. Discuss what the liquid and porous material is in this case (water and sedimentary rock).