

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. What sort of rock are fossils found in?

Sedimentary Rock (layered rock over millions of years).

4. Which town has an ammonite fossil as their symbol?

Whitby

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. Do you think the ammonites in the pictures look like snakes? Why?

Open ended for discussion.