








Geologic Time Scale

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____







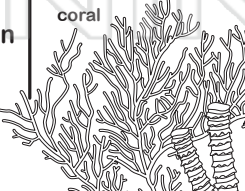


The **geologic time scale** is a map that divides Earth's history into logical segments of time. The scale is broken into divisions and subdivisions. The broadest divisions are called eons. **Eons** are divided into eras, **eras** are divided into periods and **periods** are divided into **epochs**.

Era	Period	Millions of Years Ago	Lifeforms
The Cenozoic Era The Cenozoic Era literally means <i>recent life</i> . This era is most commonly referred to as the "Age of the Mammals." The demise of the dinosaurs allowed the growth and ultimately the dominance of mammals. The Era has also been marked by dramatic climatic changes that have allowed periods of glaciation followed by periods of melting and glacial retreat.	Quaternary	1.8 to present	 wooly mammoth  eohippus
	Tertiary	 66.4	 saber-tooth tiger  rodent



PREVIEW

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Paleozoic marked the growth of land plants and trees. Of all the eras, the Paleozoic contains the most extensive collection of fossils . The Paleozoic fossil record includes simple organisms such as algae , through marine invertebrates like brachiopods, to early amphibians . This era ended with a mass extinction of over 90% of all species, known as the Permo-Triassic Extinction.	Ordovician	 438 505	 squid  jawless fish  ammonite  brachiopod  trilobite
	Cambrian	544	 coral  jellyfish  sponge
	Precambrian	544 to 4.6 billion years ago	



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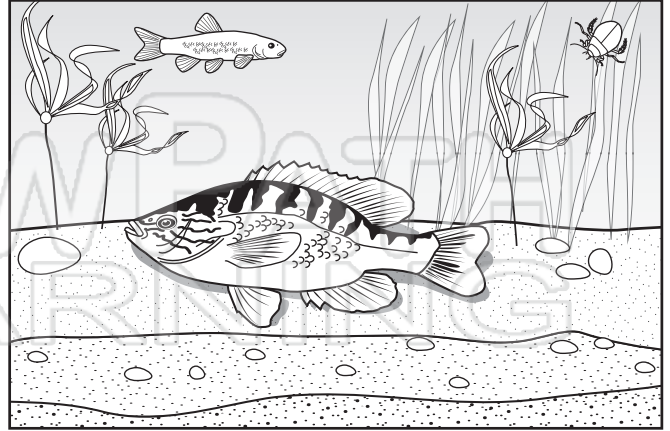
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How a Fossil Forms

Most **fossils** form from organisms that once lived near **bodies of water**, such as ponds, lakes and shallow seas.

Phase 1 – Death

After an organism dies, it slowly sinks to the sea floor.



Phase 2 – Burial

The sediment covers the organism.



PREVIEW

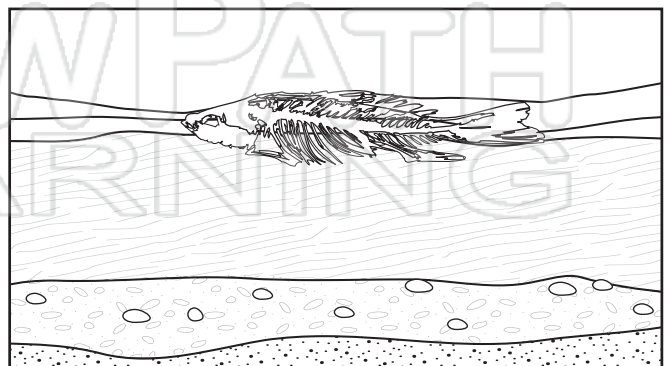
Phase 3 – Preservation

Over time, the sediment hardens and the organism is preserved.

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Phase 4 – Erosion

Millions of years later, the movement of the Earth's plates forces the seabed to move above the surface. This layer is worn away by wind and rain, **exposing the fossil**.





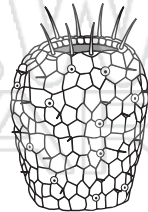
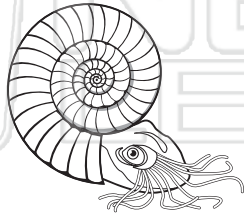
Geologic Time Scale

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Draw a line to match each organism with the correct time period.



Cenozoic Era



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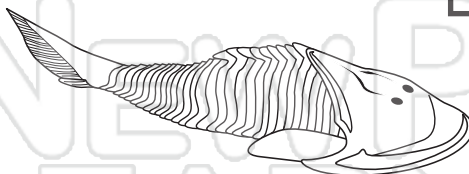
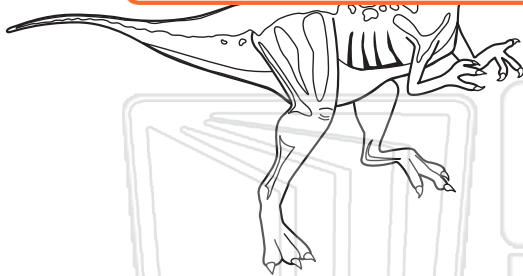
Mesozoic Era



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Precambrian

The **geologic time scale** divides Earth's history into logical segments of time. The broadest divisions are called _____. _____ are divided into _____, _____ are divided into _____ and _____ are divided into _____.

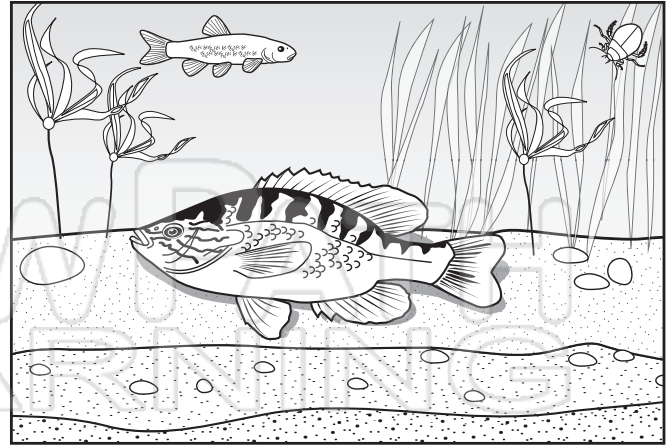


Geologic Time Scale

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Describe each step in the **formation of a fossil**.

Phase 1 -



Phase 2 -

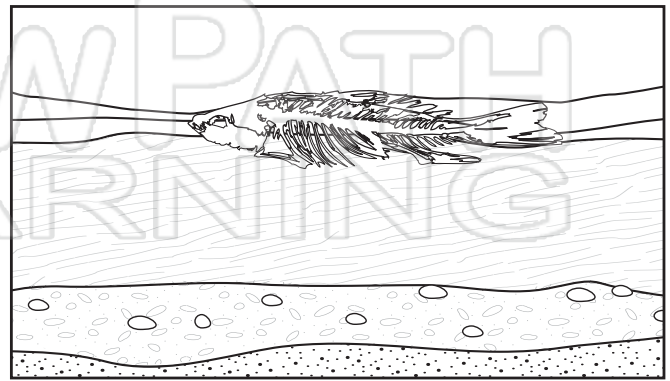
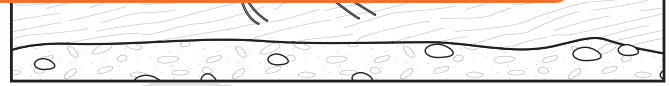


Phase

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Phase 4 -



NEW PATH LEARNING

NEW PATH LEARNING



Geologic Time Scale

Answer Key

Draw a line to match each organism with the correct time period.

Cenozoic Era

Mesozoic Era

Precambrian

PREVIEW

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The **geologic time scale** is a map that divides Earth's history into logical segments of time. The broadest divisions are called **eons**. **Eons** are divided into eras, **eras** are divided into **periods** and **periods** are divided into **epochs**.



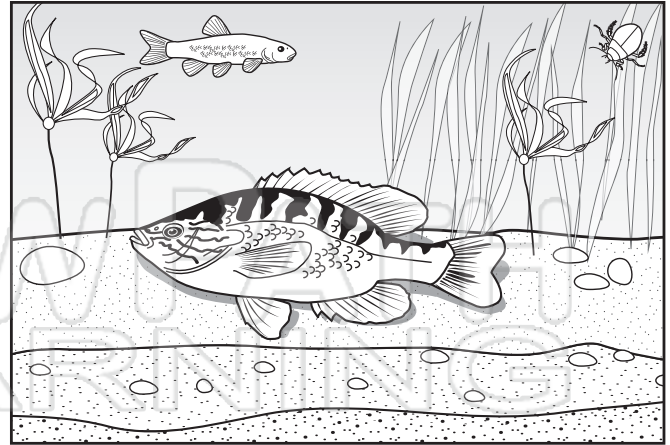
Geologic Time Scale

Answer Key

Describe each step in the formation of a fossil.

Phase 1 – **Death**

After an organism dies, it sinks to the sea floor.



Phase 2 – **Deposition**

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(rock

PREVIEW

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Phase 4 – **Erosion**

Millions of years later, movement of Earth's plates forces the seabed to move above the surface. This layer is worn away by wind and rain, exposing the fossil.

