

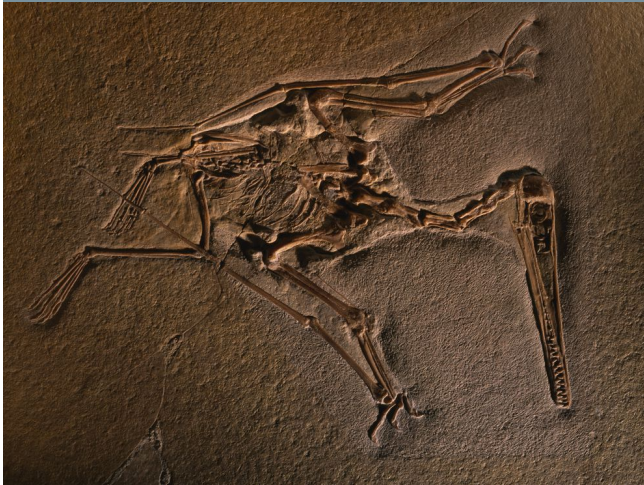
What are Fossils?

Atlanta Afro-STEMletes

5 cm

What's up with fossils?

Fossils are the remains of ancient organisms. Fossils do not stop at dinosaurs bones - they can also be plant fossils, fish fossils, and even remains of feces! I have touched fossilized dinosaur feces at the Tellus Museum! Cool and weird at the same time, right?!



How are they formed?

In order for fossils to form, an organism must be buried in sediment and they must leave an imprint prior to decomposition. If an animal has a hard skeleton, it is easy for it to fossilize. Most fossils are preserved in amber.



How is a TRACE FOSSIL formed?

1.



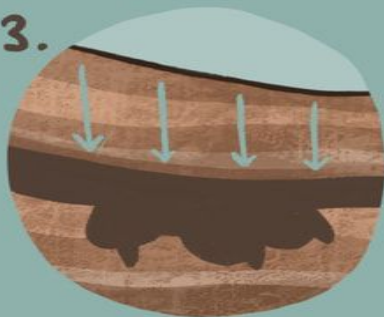
A dinosaur walks or runs on soft ground like sand or mud.

2.



The dinosaur leaves an **imprint** of its moving feet called a **track**.

3.



The **track** makes a **mould** which is filled with **sediment**. Over time more layers of **sediment** build up on top, push down, and turn into **sedimentary rock**.

4.



The rocks eventually lift up or break apart and a **cast** made out of the sediment becomes exposed. This is a **trace fossil**.

5.



The footprint fossil is discovered by a **palaeontologist**.

Where can they be found?

Fossils are usually found in sedimentary rocks that formed near old water sources like rivers. They can be found by excavation or by strong winds and rain that remove layers of dirt. Many fossils have been found in the US in states like Utah. Over 6,000 fossils have been found in Emery County in Utah.



Thanks for tuning in!

Consider visiting Fernbank and Tellus for more facts regarding fossils!

Tellus Science Museum: 100 Tellus Dr, Cartersville, GA 30120

Fernbank Science Center: 156 Heaton Park Dr, Atlanta, GA 30307