

Clues from Fossils

Grade 2 • SCIENCE • Students recognize fossils as preserved evidence that can give clues about plants and animals from the past. • Standards: 3-LS4-1

Look at each fossil clue below. Write what the fossil can tell us about a plant or animal from long ago.

1. A fossil shows the print of a leaf. What does this tell us?
2. A fossil shows the print of a seashell. What does this tell us?
3. A fossil shows three footprints in a row. What does this tell us?
4. A fossil shows a long bone. What does this tell us?
5. A fossil shows the print of a fish. What does this tell us about where the fish lived?
6. A fossil shows a leaf with five pointed parts. What does this tell us about the plant?
7. A fossil shows very large footprints. What does this tell us about the animal?
8. A fossil shows sharp teeth. What does this tell us about what the animal ate?
9. A fossil shows flat teeth. What does this tell us about what the animal ate?
10. A fossil shows the print of a tiny insect with wings. What two things does this tell us?

Answer Key — Clues from Fossils

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. A plant lived there long ago.
2. A sea animal lived there long ago.
3. An animal walked there long ago.
4. An animal with bones lived there long ago.
5. The fish lived in water long ago.
6. The plant had leaves with five points long ago.
7. The animal was large long ago. (*Large footprint fossils indicate that the animal that made them had a large body.*)
8. The animal probably ate meat long ago. (*Sharp teeth are a clue that an animal likely used them to bite and eat meat.*)
9. The animal probably ate plants long ago. (*Flat teeth are a clue that an animal likely used them to grind up plants.*)
10. A small insect that could fly lived there long ago.