The Story of a Fossil: How an Ancient Fossil from the Cretaceous Became an Exhibit at the Museum

By

___________________________________
Your Name
Dedicated to

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The End.
A long, long time ago, in a time period called the ______________________, there lived an organism called a(n) ________________________.

This organism was a type of ____________________.

Today it is ____________________. It is related to other organisms, like ________________________.

The fossil hunter wanted other kids to be able to see the fossil, so (s)he donated it to a museum, where many visitors see it on display every day now!
The fossil hunter wanted to identify the fossil (s)he had found, so (s)he took it to a paleontologist, a scientist who studies fossils as a job. The paleontologist identified the fossil as a ___________________________ and congratulated the fossil hunter. Nice find!

This type of organism lived ___________________________.

It ate ___________________________.

Its diet (ex: plants). Draw a picture of its food below.

One interesting fact about this organism is:

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

________________________________________________.
One day a fossil hunter was out looking for fossils. (S)he saw something unusually patterned, gleaming in the sun. It was the fossil!

One day, there was a __________________——let's call him/her __________________——who died in a shallow sea. The body sank to the bottom of the sea.
No predators or scavengers ate ____________________’s body, and it was quickly covered with sediment—lots of mud and sand that were carried by rivers or streams into the sea.

Over many more years, rain and snow eroded and washed away the layers of sediment above and around the fossil, exposing it on the Earth’s surface in modern-day _____________________.

Location where the fossil was found
Over a very, very long time (about ________________
_______________ years, to be exact), the Earth
where the fossil of ______________ was buried
changed quite a lot!

__________________________’s soft body parts rotted away,
leaving only the hard part(s) behind, such as the
_______________________________.

More sediments piled on top.

The Earth’s crust was uplifted—meaning pushed up
by forces deep in the Earth—carrying the fossil with
it, high above where it began. Sometimes, fossils
that were once at the bottom of a sea end up at the
top of a mountain!
Sea water moved through the sediment layers. The minerals that were dissolved in the water got stuck in the microscopic, empty spaces in the bone(s), and began to form tiny crystals there. Soon, these spaces were filled up with crystals of minerals like quartz, calcite, and pyrite.

The sediments around ______________ were pressed together and slowly dried out. They became hard rocks. The fossil was also like a rock, although its shape showed how it came from a living thing.