

The Story of a Fossil:

How an Ancient

Type of Fossil
Fossil from the

Cretaceous

Became an Exhibit at

the Museum

By

Your Name

Dedicated to



The End.

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!

A long, long time ago, in a time period called the _____, there lived an organism called a(n) _____.
Geologic Period
Type of Fossil

This organism was a type of _____.
Type of Animal
Today it is _____. It is related to other organisms, like _____.
Extinct or living?
Living Relative(s)

This type of organism lived _____
Habitat

_____.

It ate _____

_____.

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

One interesting fact about this organism is:

_____.

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!

Type of Fossil

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 _____ —
Type of Fossil
 let's call him/her _____ —who died
Choose a name for your fossil
 in a shallow sea. The body sank to the bottom of the
 sea.

No predators or scavengers ate

_____’s body, and it was quickly
Name of Your Fossil
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 _____.

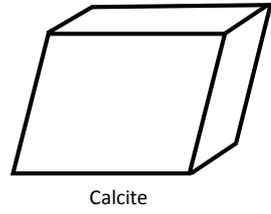
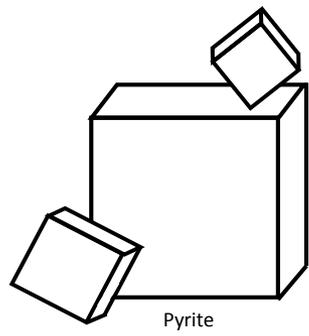
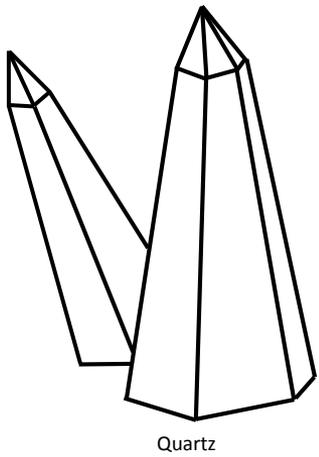
Location where the fossil was found

Over a very, very long time (about _____
Age of Your Fossil
 _____ years, to be exact), the Earth
 where the fossil of _____
Name of Your Fossil
 was buried
 changed quite a lot!

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!

_____ 's soft body parts rotted away,
Name of Your Fossil
 leaving only the hard part(s) behind, such as the
 _____.
Part(s) of the body you saw in the museum
 More sediments piled on top.

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.

Name of Your Fossil