

The Story of a Fossil:

How an Ancient

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Type of Fossil

Fossil from the

**Ice Age**

Became an Exhibit at

the Museum

By

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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  
 on land. The body was carried by a stream to a low  
 area.

Then \_\_\_\_\_'s body was quickly  
Name of Your Fossil  
 covered with sediment from the stream—lots of mud  
 and sand. No predators or scavengers had a chance  
 to eat him/her.

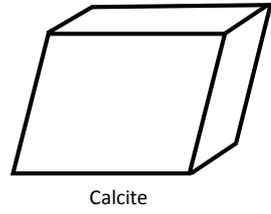
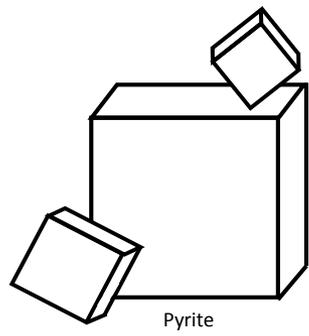
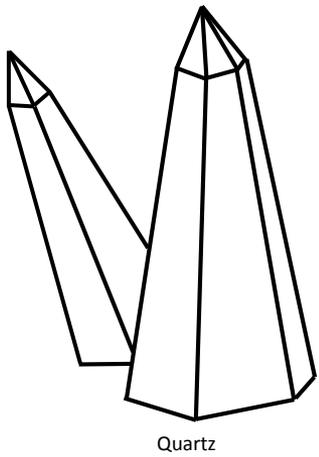
Over many more years, rain and snow eroded and  
 washed away the layers of sediment above and  
 around the fossil, exposing it on the Earth's surface in  
 modern-day \_\_\_\_\_.  
Location where the fossil was found

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 riverbed 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.

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