

24 Read and find these words.

dinosaur fossils swan octopus palaeontologists

CLIL  
SCIENCE

7

Fossils

Dinosaurs lived a long time ago but they are all extinct now. We know about their past life by analysing animal and plant fossils. Palaeontology is the scientific study of animals and plants that have left an impression in the earth or rocks over a very long time. A lot of information can be seen by palaeontologists when a fossil is found. They can tell if the animal had fur or not, if it could fly or not and many other details by studying the shape and the structure of the fossil. The shape of a wing of a flying dinosaur was not so different from that of the swan or any other bird today. There are fossils of big animals (dinosaurs, elephants etc.) and fossils of very small animals such as insects (butterflies, ants etc.) Marine fossils are also found under the sea by marine archaeologists. Scientists can find out about the history of the octopus by studying fossils.



25 Ask and answer.

- 1 How do we know what dinosaurs were like?
- 2 What kind of information can be found in a fossil?
- 3 What kinds of fossils are there?

26 Read. Then ask and answer.

- 1 Have you ever seen a fossil?
- 2 What kind of fossil was it?
- 3 Where did you find it?
- 4 What information could be found in that fossil?
- 5 How are a fossil and a shell similar or different?

MINI-PROJECT

Research an animal from the past and write about its fossil. What does it look like? Where did palaeontologists find it? What can we learn about the animal from its fossil?

What is palaeontology?

It is ...



23 Read and write. There are four words that you do not need.

extinct dinosaur fossil Marine marine archaeologist  
palaeontologist Palaeontology structure

- 1 A fossil is the remains of an ancient animal or plant that has left an impression in the earth or rock.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ is the scientific study of past life by analysing fossils.
- 3 A \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who studies fossils.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ fossils are found under the sea.

24 Read and write *True*, *False* or *I don't know*.

My name is Simon. I'm 12 years old and I'm a fossil collector! I live in Dorset on the south coast of the United Kingdom. This part of the country is called the Jurassic Coast because there are so many fossils here. I often go fossil hunting with my family on the beach near my house. I take a small hammer with me and a bag to put the fossils in. I have over 50 fossils now. They are mostly of ammonites, which is a type of sea snail. I've also found some fossils of fish. We have great fun fossil hunting, but we have to be very careful. We only go when the weather is good and when the sea is out. Also, we're careful near the cliffs around the beaches because sometimes rocks fall down. When I grow up, I want to be a palaeontologist so that I can get paid to study fossils!



- 1 Simon collects fossils. True
- 2 He has been hunting for fossils since he was eight years old. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 When he goes hunting, he takes a knife and a box. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 He has more than 50 fossils. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 He has never found any fish fossils. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 His grandfather used to be a palaeontologist. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 The cliffs around the beaches can be dangerous. \_\_\_\_\_

25 Would you like to go fossil hunting? Why or why not?

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